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REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

SOMETHING QUITE NEW UNDER THE SUN.

1. *Revelations of Egyptian Mysteries.*
2. *History of the Creation.*
3. *Discourse on the Maintenance of Health, in accordance with the Wisdom of the Ancients.* By Robert Howard, Practitioner in Medicine. 8vo. Colburn.

Redeunt Saturnia Regna. We have at last discovered the Mortal who out of the old world can reconstruct an entirely new one. Away with your geologists, your Sedgwicks and Murchisons; away with your Vestiges of Creation; of what use or value can they be when we have the master of the mysteries of Chaos before us, and one who, for the earliest intelligence, beats the Dean of York to sticks.

The author is a glorious author. He has no misgivings. He takes the opposition side in every thing. There is not a theory or faith in mankind that he does not manfully overthrow. His hypotheses are omnipotent and pervade all space. He tells you how the degeneration of nature was brought about; how some original World was consumed and our Earth perfected its own resurrection in its stead. Utopias and Atlantides are nothing to his universal schemes; surely it will be worth while to endeavour to track so wonderful a philosopher in his resplendent course. It is a breathless task, but we must attempt it, for the object is to "pour a new light upon our knowledge of nature," in order to benefit society to an incalculable extent, and of an unspeakable importance, by unravelling, as by a bottom of cotton thread, those mighty hidden mysteries and masked secrets which have so long lain asleep in the Bible, Hesiod, Homer, and other records of primeval time.

Mr. Howard, born to eclipse the name of the philanthropist, and throw into mere shadow the pseudo and aristocratic "blood of all the Howards," sets out by informing us of the composition of the world, viz, fire the lightest, air the next in density, then water, and lastly ponderous earth. The air, it seems, is continually arising from, and returning to, the earth in the performance of functions not yet understood; but the part played by the water is better ascertained, for it circulates in the globe in the same manner, and with the same effects, as the blood in the human body, and the globe itself is a big animal-sort of body constructed simply for the elaboration of vegetables and maintain itself in good condition! Thus the inorganic is quite the same as the organic:—"The functions of the earth, and the bodily functions of the animal are closely correspondent. The earth moves and breathes." Shakspeare speaks of "this breathing world;" but it is clear that Mr. Howard, in his explanation of the phenomenon, has gone a chalk beyond Shakspeare, and that is what few writers have ever done.

Mr. H. now proceeds to account for the altered condition of the earth, and in a way hitherto unsuspected, and which forces us (so often boasting of our enlightenment!) to wonder at the ignorance into which mankind have fallen, and continued so long. Because, d'ye see, "It was well understood in ancient times, that the land originally formed a continuous circle, whose border was extended, at a prodigious height above its present surface, through the upper regions." And we might have remained in this happy con-

dition till now, but for the folly and stupidity of our ancestry: for—

"The operations of man in his interference with the mineral kingdom, have had the effect of causing a formation of stone, commencing at some small depth beneath the surface of the earth, and of unknown extent downwards. And having taken place by means of the unnatural entrance of subterranean vapour into combination with the matters of the earth, in its passage upwards; so that, when the stony formation was completed, those vapours, which are continually generated in the interior of the earth, being no longer absorbed and solidified, became imprisoned, and, when existing in a state of collection and condensation, which, under the integrity of the earth's system, could never have occurred, they form explosive mixtures, giving rise to subterranean lightning, the cause of earthquakes. By the irresistible force of such subterranean explosions, the circle of the earth was rent by large chasms, letting in the water, so as to divide the land into large portions; and independently of these great ruptures, a second series, of less extent, occurred over the surface of the earth, and by means of their force, the hard stony crust was soft, and raised up through the superincumbent soft stratum, and the fractured portions, more or less widely separated, being made to slide over the subjacent material, and to drive up the stone beyond them, were left standing in elevated positions, with their faces towards each other, perpendicular or slanting upwards, but in broken and irregular ridges: in this way the stony mountains and their valleys were formed."

Here is a scene, on a grand scale, a grand scene; and we should like to ask what are eocene, pleiocene, or any other geological cene, to compare with it. But the metamorphosis of the sadly gripped Earth goes on convulsively:—

"During these stupendous explosions, vast masses of granite becoming detached, and lying loose in the gullet of the chasm, at the instant of its first opening, and so receiving the full impetus of the upward blast, would be propelled many miles through the air; accordingly such blocks of granite, of many tons in weight, are found scattered about on the surface of the earth, in some places in great numbers; and in particular instances they have happened to alight and rest upon the sides and summits of mountains far distant."

These are your pretended bolders Mr. Professor Philipps; these your ice-conveyed rocks Sir Roderick! Instead thereof you see they have been blown up sky high and have alighted, as chance directed, over the surface of the land; only surprising us that, when they had such a terrific tumble, they did not sink deeper into it. But Mr. Howard does not stop here; he gives us his word that—

"Thus it appears that some of the land has been hurled from the tropics, into the frigid regions of the north, carrying with it, its waters and its inhabitants, who have suddenly become locked up in ice. Accordingly the melting of the northern ice has been observed to disclose the bodies of tropical animals, with all their flesh well preserved, and so it is probable that the bodies of great numbers of animals and men may still remain frozen in the ice, continuing in the same state as that in which they died, and without any decomposition of their flesh. Hence the

bones of tropical animals are commonly found on the frozen shores of the north."

Let us pause to admire to admire this sublime conception of subterranean explosions of sufficient force and magnitude to blow districts and regions from about the equator to the arctic circle (and why not the antarctic?)—a precious cooler for the people thereon—and dabbling down Melville and Parry Islands, Kotelnoy and Island out of slips off Eastern Africa and Juan Fernandez, Sierra Leone, &c., to the utter astonishment of the torrid and sky-rocketed inhabitants. But, independently of this, there can be no doubt that big holes were left where the lumps of land were sent fizzing through the air, and we accordingly find that the explosions did "create great caverns in the interior of the Earth," and that the consequences were frightful, for, as Mr. Howard shows—

"These might at first become filled with water, but the entrances by which the water found access would be apt to be closed up by the falling in of earth and stone, and as there is a continual consumption of water in the interior of the earth, they would at length become empty and ready to receive a larger volume of the explosive vapours, by which the moving powers would be wonderfully increased. In this way, it appears that the continents and islands have been formed, by the violent rending of the superficies of the circle of the earth, and hurling its fragments to great distances, throwing it into the confusion in which it at present exists."

After expounding the greater concerns, we need not follow our author into the minor affair of South America slipping away from Africa, and a few other changes by which the Red Sea, the Baltic, the Persian Gulf, &c. &c., were made, and Madagascar, New Holland, Denmark, &c. &c., were transported. The general result, as stated by Mr. H., was that the original circle of the earth (see before) was broken up and our present continents and islands formed of its exploded fragments, and that

"We are the inhabitants of the wreck of the former world. The earth having sunk down and retired within itself, so that its surface is now at a very great distance below the regions which are proper to it."

"There we are," then, as the clown exclaims in the pantomime, poor creatures, having nothing but a ruptured globe to live upon, and, if we are to believe Mr. H., getting narrower and narrower every year, as "most of the land," instead of being up on high, is "becoming covered with water." This, to be sure, is in the teeth of all geology and geography to boot, which have tried to persuade us that the gradual increase of dry land was demonstrable.

The chapter on Earthquakes is no less worthy of Mr. H.; but as we have not room for all the novelties therein, we shall merely beg to call the earnest attention of Lord Ebrington, Sir John Burgoyne, and the other Commissioners of Sewers, including, of course, Mr. Foster, the official engineer, to one signally pregnant consideration elicited by Mr. H. (who ought, by the bye, to be joined to the Commission, which seems all abroad upon the business confided to it, and much in want of a guiding head). But to the point:—

"Earthquakes," observes Mr. H., "have always been wont to occur in cities from this cause; because the earth cannot bear such accumulated

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weights on its surface without sustaining injury; hence it has thus made exceptions to get rid of the incumbrance they presented.

"There is nothing more remarkable than the havoc which history shows has been made amongst cities by earthquakes. . . .

"Nature has always striven with elevated stony districts and cities, showing that they occasion a condition of the surface of the earth which is intolerable to her; that is, a condensed, impervious state, by which the passage upwards of that universal subterranean gaseous generation is opposed.

"This view of the cause of earthquakes is accordant with an observation of Pliny, who adverts to a fact noted in former times; namely, that cities in which there were many excavations were less liable to earthquakes than those where the surface was more solid."

Hence it follows that the more London is bored, perforated, and undermined, by sewers, drains, gullyholes, water and gas pipes, and tunnels, it will be all the safer for its population; and, in case of these safety valves being insufficient, we are advised to imitate the example of Naples, as mentioned by Pliny, and dig deep holes every where about to let the explosive vapours escape; railing them in, of course, to avoid accidents to people who have not sworn themselves into the Temperance Society, and, possibly, to some who have taken the oath.

Our next topic is "Storms," and Colonel Reid may as well hide his diminished head, with the scientific halo around it, at once. Instead of his most useful and admirable theory, Mr. H. has discovered that Storms are caused by "the artificial use of fires all over the earth."

"As by this and other means, too great a quantity of watery and mineral vapours are occasioned to pass into the air, which, by this addition to its proper conducting powers, attracts more electricity from the earth than should naturally be contained in the atmosphere; this excess of electricity in the air causes combustion of the noxious vapours which have thus become effused, giving rise to water, sulphurous acid, and other substances, which it causes to return again to the earth."

As the wren said when it added its mite of natural contribution to the ocean, "every little helps," so ought we, forewarned by Mr. H., to ponder on the effects that may be produced by our poking our fires. Suppose, on Christmas Eve, fifty thousand families are blazing away with their Yule logs, is it not evident that we are likely to have a tempest on Christmas-day? And then remark what must be the consequences of the artificial fires now for ever raging and ranging over the country in locomotive engines! Cape Wroth will, in a few years, be a calm, at the extremity of Britain, as compared with all the tempest-tossed and ravaged interior.

"The use of fire," we are elsewhere informed, "has caused the solid portion of the earth to contract, whilst at the same time it occasioned a vast increase in the bulk of the earth's atmosphere, particularly by the bringing into existence of the volcanic disease of the earth, which is now always in very extensive activity. Thus the kind of combustion employed by man on earth causes the living fire to pass out of substances, so rendering the earth barren; but active volcanic fire, or that by which the terrestrial revolutions are effected, causes the re-entrance of the fire of life, and thus restores the fruitfulness of that part of the earth which has been subjected to its influence. All nature from the above-mentioned, and other concomitant causes similarly operating, thus becoming weaker and more infirm, and the earth and its creatures diminishing in size." A fine key to the science of paleontology.

"Again, it must be borne in mind that all combustion generates water; in this way the water of the earth has been unnaturally increasing

ever since the introduction of the use of fire into the world. Thus whilst the employment of fire has caused a stupendous diminution of the solid substance of the earth, it has, in like manner, increased its watery part."

But having, as far as in our power, within a convenient space, done what we could in exhibiting the principal features of the author's utterly new System of Creation and Development, we arrive at an equally extraordinary crusade against Salt, of which mineral substance Mr. H. has an abhorrence, such as mad dogs have to water. To Salt he attributes all the ills that flesh is heir to, and more too. It is delightful to dwell on so hearty an antipathy! He will not even admit Salt to be effectual if laid on birds' tails, though every little boy in the empire is aware of the captivating truth of that fact. The boasted "Salt of the Earth" is gall to him. He repudiates the article. Its prevalence in Egypt he declares to be the occasion of ophthalmia, and, by analogous reasoning, he reaches the conclusion that it is the origin of the potato disease; no doubt first affecting their eyes! The land is the agent in this case, owing to the saline introduced by improper manures, such as sea-weed. Yet mealy potatoes and salt have been fancied no bad thing. But we must defer the rest of his diatribe, and a few other incidental matters, till Saturday next.

LINE OF MUSSULMAN CALIPHES. *Lives of the Successors of Mahomet.* By Washington Irving. Murray.

THIS second volume follows the very popular "Life of Mahomet," with which Mr. Irving has adorned our literature. It is quite worthy to succeed that interesting production; and, drawing together materials from several unknown, or little known quarters, is perhaps more likely to bring curious and novel matters within the cognizance of readers. For variety, adventure, and characteristic traits of a singular people, and the wonderful imposition of a strange religion upon the world, it is hardly possible to imagine a more stirring narrative. The essence of Romance pervades the solid structure of History. Aurar was not more marvellously Arab than Khaled or Derar, with whose exploits this volume opens: it is throughout redolent of the East, and Oriental manners and customs are exhibited with surprising effect as the action rapidly proceeds and millions yield to Moslem fanaticism and fearless valour.

The time occupied is ninety years from the death of Mahomet, and the author states:—

"In this period, of less than fourscore and ten years, which passed within the lifetime of many an aged Arab, the Moslems extended their empire and their faith over the wide regions of Asia and Africa, subverting the empire of the Khosrus; subjugating great territories in India; establishing a splendid seat of power in Syria; dictating to the conquered kingdom of the Pharaohs; overrunning the whole northern coast of Africa; scouring the Mediterranean with their ships; carrying their conquests in one direction to the very walls of Constantinople, and in another to the extreme limits of Mauritania; in a word, trampling down all the old dynasties which once held haughty and magnificent sway in the East. The whole presents a striking instance of the triumph of fanatic enthusiasm over disciplined valour, at a period when the invention of fire-arms had not reduced war to a matter of almost arithmetical calculation. There is also an air of wild romance about many of the events recorded in this narrative, owing to the character of the Arabs, and their fondness for stratagems, daring exploits, and individual achievements of an extravagant nature. These have sometimes been softened, if not suppressed, by cautious historians; but the author has found them so in unison with the people and the times, and with a career of conquest, in itself out of the bounds of common pro-

bability, that he has been induced to leave them in all their graphic force."

It is out of these accounts that we shall call our review, as Mr. Irving has reaped his harvest from Al Wakidi, the Abbé de Marigny, D'Herbelot, Von Hammer-Purgstall, Tabari, a Persian author, Conde, and Don Pascual de Gayangos.

The early portion of the volume is chiefly from the Arab writer, Al Wakidi, above-mentioned, whose "Conquest of Syria," including the "Siege of Damascus," was translated by Ockley. Before this war was undertaken, however, Abu Beker was elected to the Caliphate, as the successor of Mahomet; whose daughter, Ayesha, had been the Prophet's favourite wife, and who was himself the author of the *dictum*—"The women are all an evil; but the greatest evil of all is, that they are necessary!"

Schism and insurrection attended his elevation to the throne. Omar, another of the four candidates, adhered to him, and succeeded him; whilst Ali withdrew into the interior of Arabia, with Hassan and Hosein, the only descendants of Mahomet. Opposition was, however, soon crushed, and the Syrian war, as well as other wars, undertaken. Moseilma, a false prophet, was first disposed of.

"He, encouraged by the impunity with which, during the illness of Mahomet, had been suffered to propagate his doctrines, had increased greatly the number of his proselytes and adherents, and held a kind of regal and sacerdotal sway over the important city and fertile province of Yamama, between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Persia."

"There is quite a flavour of romance in the story of this impostor. Among those dazzled by his celebrity and charmed by his rhapsodical effusions, was Sedjah, wife of Abu Cadda, a poetess of the tribe of Tamim, distinguished among the Arabs for her personal and mental charms. She came to see Moseilma in like manner as the Queen of Sheba came to witness the wisdom and grandeur of King Solomon. They were inspired with a mutual passion at the first interview, and passed much of their time together in tender, if not religious intercourse. Sedjah became a convert to the faith of her lover, and caught from him the imaginary gift of prophecy. He appears to have caught, in exchange, the gift of poetry, for certain amatory effusions, addressed by him to his beautiful visitant, are still preserved by an Arabian historian, and breathe all the warmth of the Song of Solomon."

"This dream of poetry and prophecy was interrupted by the approach of Khaled at the head of a numerous army. Moseilma sallied forth to meet him with a still greater force. A battle took place at Akreba, not far from the capital city of Yamama. At the onset the rebels had a transient success, and twelve hundred Moslems bit the dust. Khaled, however, rallied his forces; the enemy were overthrown, and ten thousand cut to pieces. Moseilma fought with desperation, but fell covered with wounds. It is said his death-blow was given by Wacksa, the Ethiopian, the same who had killed Hamza, uncle of Mahomet, in the battle of Ohod, and that he used the self-same spear. Wacksa, since his paragon by Mahomet, had become a zealous Moslem."

"The surviving disciples of Moseilma became promptly converted to Islamism, under the pious but heavy hand of Khaled."

The outset of the army on the Syrian expedition is very graphically described:—

"Every day brought some Sheikh to Medina at the head of the fighting men of his tribe, and before long the fields round the city were studded with encampments. The command of the army was given to Yezed Ibn Abu Sofian. The troops soon became impatient to strike their sunburnt tents and march. 'Why do we loiter?' cried they; 'all our fighting men are here; there are none more to come. The plains of Medina are parched and bare, there is no food for man or

steed. Give us the word, and let us march for the fruitful land of Syria."

"Abu Beker assented to their wishes. From the brow of a hill he reviewed the army on the point of departure. The heart of the Caliph swelled with pious exultation as he looked down upon the stirring multitude; the glittering array of arms; the squadrons of horsemen; the lengthening line of camels; and called to mind the scanty handful that used to gather round the standard of the prophet. Scarce ten years had elapsed since the latter had been driven a fugitive from Mecca, and now a mighty host assembled at the summons of his successor, and distant empires were threatened by the sword of Islam. Filled with these thoughts, he lifted up his voice and prayed to God to make these troops valiant and victorious. Then giving the word to march, the tents were struck, the camels laden, and in a little while the army poured in a long continuous train over hill and valley.

"Abu Beker accompanied them on foot on the first day's march. The leaders would have dismounted and yielded him their steeds. 'Nay,' said he, 'ride on. You are in the service of Allah. As for me, I shall be rewarded for every step I take in his cause.'

"His parting charge to Yezed, the commander of the army, was a singular mixture of severity and mercy.

"Treat your soldiers with kindness and consideration; be just in all your dealings with them, and consult their feelings and opinions. Fight valiantly, and never turn your back upon a foe. When victorious harm not the aged, and protect women and children. Destroy not the palm-tree, nor fruit trees of any kind; waste not the corn-field with fire; nor kill any cattle excepting for food. Stand faithfully to every covenant and promise; respect all religious persons who live in hermitages, or convents, and spare their edifices. But should you meet with a class of unbelievers of a different kind, who go about with shaven crowns, and belong to the synagogue of Satan, be sure you cleave their skulls unless they embrace the true faith, or render tribute."

The general commanding this force turned out to be incompetent, and the Moslem cause was in much danger, when the Caliph turned for aid to Khaled, of whose employment at the time we are told:—

"Hira was a kingdom to the west of Babylonia, on the verge of the Syrian Desert: it had been founded by a race of Arabs, descendants of Kahtan, and had subsisted upwards of six hundred years; the greater part of the time it had been under a line of princes of the house of Mondar; who acknowledged allegiance to the kings of Persia, and acted as their lieutenants over the Arabs of Irak.

"During the early part of the third century many Jacobite Christians had been driven, by the persecutions and disorders of the Eastern Church, to take refuge among the Arabs of Hira. Their numbers had been augmented in subsequent times by fugitives from various quarters, until, shortly before the birth of Mahomet, the king of Hira and all his subjects had embraced Christianity.

"Much was said of the splendour of the capital, which bore the same name with the kingdom. Here were two palaces of extraordinary magnificence, the beauty of one of which, if Arabian legends speak true, was fatal to the architect; for the king, fearing that he might build one still more beautiful for some other monarch, had him thrown headlong from the tower.

"Khaled acted with his usual energy and success in the invasion of this kingdom. With ten thousand men he besieged the city of Hira; stormed its palaces; slew the king in battle; subdued the kingdom; imposed on it an annual tribute of seventy thousand pieces of gold, the first tribute ever levied by Moslems on a foreign

land, and sent the same, with the son of the deceased king, to Medina.

"He next carried his triumphant arms against Aila, defeated Hormuz, the Persian governor, and sent his crown, with a fifth part of the booty, to the Caliph. The crown was of great value, being one of the first class of those worn by the seven vicegerents of the Persian 'King of Kings.' Among the trophies of victory sent to Medina was an elephant. Three other Persian generals and governors made several attempts, with powerful armies, to check the victorious career of Khaled, but were alike defeated. City after city fell into his hands; nothing seemed capable of withstanding his arms. Planting his victorious standard on the bank of the Euphrates, he wrote to the Persian monarch, calling upon him to embrace the faith or pay tribute. 'If you refuse both,' added he, 'I will come upon you with a host who love death as much as you do life.'

"The repeated convoys of booty sent by Khaled to Medina after his several victories, the sight of captured crowns and captured princes, and of the first tribute imposed on foreign lands, had excited the public exultation to an uncommon degree. Abu Beker especially took pride in his achievements; considering them proofs of his own sagacity and foresight, which he had shown in refusing to punish him with death when strongly urged to do so by Omar. As victory after victory was announced, and train after train laden with spoils crowded the gates of Medina, he joyed to see his anticipations so far outstripped by the deeds of this headlong warrior. 'By Allah,' exclaimed he, in an ecstasy, 'woman-kind is too weak to give birth to another Khaled.'

And the warrior justified the panegyric. His arrival with 1,500 horse in Syria speedily changed the face of affairs. The city of Bosra, a mart of immense wealth, was taken, through the treachery of its commander Romanus.

"Abda'rahman commanded one of the patrols. Walking his round beneath the shadow of the city walls, he beheld a man come stealthily forth, the embroidery of whose garments, faintly glittering in the starlight, betrayed him to be a person of consequence. The lance of Abda'rahman was at his breast, when he proclaimed himself to be Romanus, and demanded to be led to Khaled. On entering the tent of that leader, he inveighed against the treatment he had experienced from the people of Bosra, and invoked vengeance. They had confined him to his house, but it was built against the wall of the city. He had caused his sons and servants, therefore, to break a hole through it, by which he had issued forth, and by which he offered to introduce a band of soldiers, who might throw open the city gates to the army.

"His offer was instantly accepted, and Abda'rahman was intrusted with the dangerous enterprise. He took with him a hundred picked men, and, conducted by Romanus, entered in the dead of night, by the breach in the wall, into the house of the traitor. Here they were refreshed with food and disguised to look like the soldiers of the garrison. Abda'rahman then divided them into four bands of twenty-five men each; three of which he sent in different directions, with orders to keep quiet until he and his followers should give the signal-shout of Allah Achbar! He then requested Romanus to conduct him to the quarters of the governor, who had fled the fight with him that day. Under the guidance of the traitor, he and his twenty-five men passed with noiseless steps through the streets. Most of the unfortunate people of Bosra had sunk to sleep; but now and then the groan of some wounded warrior, or the lament of some afflicted woman, broke the stillness of the night and startled the prowlers.

"Arrived at the gate of the citadel they surprised the sentinels, who mistook them for a friendly patrol, and made their way to the

governor's chamber. Romanus entered first, and summoned the governor to receive a friend.

"What friend seeks me at this hour of the night?"

"Thy friend Abda'rahman," cried Romanus with malignant triumph; "who comes to send thee to hell!"

"The wretched poltroon would have fled. 'Nay,' cried Abda'rahman, 'you escape me not a second time!' and with a blow of his scimitar laid him dead at his feet. He then gave the signal shout of Allah Achbar! It was repeated by his followers at the portal; echoed by the other parties in different quarters; the city gates were thrown open, the legions of Khaled and Serjabil rushed in, and the whole city resounded with the cries of Allah Achbar! The inhabitants, startled from their sleep, hastened forth to know the meaning of the uproar, but were cut down at their thresholds, and a horrible carnage took place until there was a general cry for quarter. Then, in compliance with one of the precepts of Mahomet, Khaled put a stop to the slaughter, and received the survivors under the yoke.

"The savage tumult being appeased, the unhappy inhabitants of Bosra inquired as to the mode in which they had been surprised. Khaled hesitated to expose the baseness of Romanus; but the traitor gloried in his shame, and in the vengeance he had wreaked upon former friends. 'Twas I!' cried he with demoniac exultation. 'I renounce ye both in this world and the next. I deny him who was crucified, and despise his worshippers. I choose Islam for my faith; the Caaba for my temple; the Moslems for my brethren; Mahomet for my prophet; and I bear witness that there is but one only God, who has no partner in his power and glory.'

"Having made this full recantation of his old faith and profession of his new, in fulfilment of his traitorous compact the apostate departed from Bosra, followed by the execrations of its inhabitants, among whom he durst no longer abide; and Khaled, although he despised him in his heart, appointed a guard to protect his property from plunder."

The terrible siege of Damascus is the next grand event in the history; but we must refer readers to Mr. Irving for the particulars of bloody encounters, desperate single combats, great battles, executions, plots, massacres, and other horrors of the war. Of the single combats, the annexed is the conclusion:—

"The contest was long and obstinate. The combatants paused for breath. Khaled could not but regard his adversary with admiration.

"Thy name," said he 'is Azrail?' (This is the Arabic name for the angel of death.)

"Azrail is my name," replied the other.

"By Allah!" replied Khaled, 'thy namesake is at hand, waiting to carry thy soul to the fire of Jehennam!'

"They renewed the fight. Azrail, who was the most fleetly mounted, being sorely pressed, made use of an Arabian stratagem, and giving the reins to his steed pretended to fly the field. Having distanced his adversary and fatigued his horse, he suddenly wheeled about and returned to the charge. Khaled, however, was not to be outdone in stratagem. Throwing himself lightly from his saddle just as his antagonist came galloping upon him, he struck at the legs of his horse, brought him to the ground and took his rider prisoner.

"The magnanimity of Khaled was not equal to his valour; or rather his fanatical zeal overcame all generous feelings. He admired Azrail as a soldier; but detested him as an infidel. Placing him beside his late rival Calois, he called upon both to renounce Christianity and embrace the faith of Islam. They persisted in a firm refusal, upon which he gave the signal, and their heads were struck off and thrown over the walls into the city, a fearful warning to the inhabitants."

The women fight as stoutly as the men, and their death-darings and death-dealings are as wild and fatal as the rest:—

"It was not the men alone that prepared for this momentous battle. Caulah and Offerah, and their intrepid companions, among whom were women of the highest rank, excited by their recent success, armed themselves with such weapons as they found at hand, and prepared to mingle in the fight. Khaled applauded their courage and devotion, assuring them that, if they fell, the gates of paradise would be open to them.

"He then formed them into two battalions, giving command of one to Caulah, and of the other to Offerah; and charged them, besides defending themselves against the enemy, to keep a strict eye upon their own troops; and whenever they saw a Moslem turn his back upon the foe, to slay him as a recreant and an apostate."

The fall of Damascus,* and the pursuit and cruel slaughter of the inhabitants, who had been allowed to depart according to the conditions of the capitulation, are described in the most interesting manner; but we must here stop for the present. On the day that Damascus surrendered Abu Beker died, and Omar succeeded to the vacant throne.

L-A-W—LAW.

An Essay on the Principles of Circumstantial Evidence. By William Wills, Esq. Third Edition. Butterworth.

This is a subject of deep inquiry, and worthy the pen of any author who undertakes its elucidation.

Circumstantial or presumptive evidence is receivable in criminal as well as in civil cases, and the necessity of admitting such evidence is more obvious in the former, than in the latter, for in criminal cases the possibility of proving the matter charged, by direct and positive testimony, is much more rare than in civil actions. A presumption is, where some fact being proved, another follows as a natural probable conclusion from them, so as readily to gain assent from the mere probability of its having occurred, without further proof.

The fact thus assented to is said to be presumptive, that is, taken for granted, until the contrary be proved by the opposing party; and it is adopted the more readily in proportion to the difficulty of proving the fact by positive evidence, and to the obvious facility of disproving it, or of proving facts inconsistent with it, if it really never occurred.

They are of three kinds, namely, *violent presumptions*, where the facts and circumstances proved necessarily attend the fact presumed—*probable presumptions*, where the facts and circumstances proved usually attend the fact presumed—and *light or rash presumptions*, which, however, have no weight or validity at all.

To illustrate a case of presumptive or circumstantial evidence, the author refers to the modern case of Tawell:—

"Mr. Baron Parke, who tried the case of Tawell, stated to the jury, that 'in considering the question whether or not death was caused by prussic acid, they were not to abstain from looking at the conduct of the prisoner as a part of that question; that they must look at all the circumstances in the case, and see whether the prisoner's conduct, and the thing that was in his possession, would not strengthen them in the conclusion, that the scientific witnesses had properly arrived at the conclusion, that beyond all doubt in their minds, prussic acid was the cause of death; and, he added, that 'when they had the fact proved beyond all mistake, that prussic acid was in the stomach, they could not forget to take into consideration that this was after a violent and

sudden death, for which prussic acid would account. You must judge,' said the learned Baron, 'of the truth of the case against a person by all his conduct taken together.'"

Sir Matthew Hale, in treating of circumstantial or presumptive evidence in particular, laid down two rules, most prudent and necessary to be observed in this respect: first—never to convict a man for stealing the goods of a person unknown, merely because he will give no account how he came by them, unless an actual felony be proved of such goods. And secondly—never to convict any person of murder or manslaughter, till at least the body be found—on account of two instances he mentioned where persons were executed for the murder of others, who were then alive, although missing.

To show the sound judgment of Sir Matthew Hale, our author gives the following case.

"Sir Thomas Davenant, an eminent barrister, a gentleman of acute mind and strong understanding, swore positively to the persons of two men, whom he charged with robbing him in the open daylight. But it was proved by the most conclusive evidence that the men on trial were, at the time of the robbery, at so remote a distance from the spot that the thing was impossible. The consequence was, that the men were acquitted, and some time afterwards the robbers were taken, and the articles stolen found upon them. Sir Thomas, on seeing these men, candidly acknowledged his mistake, and, it is said, gave a recompense to the persons he prosecuted, and who so narrowly escaped conviction."

Again the author illustrates the case where the innocent party suffers for the guilty, who escapes.

"Upon the trial of Richard Coleman, at Kingston Spring Assizes 1748 or 1749, for the murder of a woman who had been brutally assaulted by three men, and died from the injuries she received, it appeared that one of the offenders, at the time of the commission of the outrage, called another of them by the name of Coleman, from which circumstance suspicion attached to the prisoner. A person deposed that he met the prisoner at a public-house, and asked him if he knew the woman who had been so cruelly treated, and that he answered, 'Yes, what of that?' The witness said that he then asked him if he was not one of the parties concerned in that affair; to which he answered, according to one account, 'Yes, I was, and what of that?' or, as another account states, 'If I was, what then?' It appeared that the prisoner was intoxicated, and that the questions were put with the view of ensnaring him; but doubtless, much influenced by his imprudent and blameable language, the jury convicted him, and he was executed.

"The real offenders were discovered about two years afterwards, and two of them were executed for the offence, and fully admitted their guilt; the third having been admitted to give evidence for the Crown, and the innocence of Coleman was rendered indubitable."

Another remarkable case referred to is that of the two Boorns convicted in the Supreme Court of Vermont, in Sept., 1819, of the murder of Russell Colvin, May 10, 1812.

"It appeared that Colvin, who was the brother-in-law of the prisoners, was a person of a weak and not perfectly sound mind; that he was considered burdensome to the family of the prisoners, who were obliged to support him; that on the day of his disappearance, being in a distant field, where the prisoners were at work, a violent quarrel broke out between them, and that one of them struck him a violent blow on the back of the head with a club, which felled him to the ground. Some suspicions arose, at that time, that he was murdered; which were increased by the finding of his hat in the same field a few months afterwards. These suspicions in process of time subsided; but, in 1819, one of the neighbours having repeatedly dreamed of the murder, with great

minuteness of circumstances, both in regard to his death and the concealment of his remains, the prisoners were vehemently accused, and generally believed guilty of the crime. Upon strict search, the pocket knife of Colvin, and a button of his clothes were found in an old open cellar in the same field, and in a hollow stump, not many rods from it, were discovered two nails and a number of bones believed to be those of a man. Upon this evidence, together with the deliberate confession of the fact of the murder and concealment of the body in those places, they were convicted and sentenced to die. On the same day they applied to the legislature for a commutation of the sentence of death to that of perpetual imprisonment; which, as to one only of them, was granted. The confession being now withdrawn and contradicted, and a reward offered for the discovery of the missing man, he was found in New Jersey, and returned home in time to prevent the execution. He had fled for fear that the prisoners would kill him. The bones were those of an animal. The prisoners had been advised by some misjudging friends, that, as they would certainly be convicted upon the circumstances proved, their only chance for life was by a commutation of punishment, and that this depended on their making a penitential confession, and thereupon obtaining a recommendation to mercy."

Mr. Wills has selected numerous other equally remarkable and fatal incidents, illustrative of the effect and danger of circumstantial evidence.

As a guide to Magistrates and Jurors, as well as to all legal officials and practitioners in criminal matters, this work will be found of essential service.

The Magisterial Formulist. By George C. Oke, Esq. Butterworth.

THE talents and ability of Mr. G. C. Oke for editing a work of this kind has been manifested before by his work entitled "The Magisterial Synopsis."

As a practical guide, not only to magistrates and their clerks, but to the legal practical man, the present volume is well calculated greatly to assist the legal profession in expounding the criminal statutes to which it refers, render them intelligible, and give them due effect at the moment they are called into action. His selection of forms and precedents are admirably chosen, and the general index to this work, which is arranged with considerable skill and judgment, renders it a completely useful practical book, and cannot fail to become a desideratum to the legal library.

POETICAL AFFECTATIONS.

Christmas-Eve and Easter-Day: a Poem. By Robert Browning. Chapman and Hall.

IT is provoking, as we did last week, to find writers, with poetry in them, playing at loggery with their reputations. As was the case with Bailey, so is it with Browning. But the mistake is not altogether with them: it is the fault of a School and a Clique of pseudo Critics, (heaven save the mark!) who preach, with congenial qualifications, that all the unintelligibly expressed is "significant;" all the cloudy "aesthetic," all the inane "philosophies," and all the nonsensical verbiage magnificent "utterances." No wonder that poor dreaming Poets are misled by such commentators—your true no-meaning puzzles more than sense; and when senseless eulogists exalt it to the sky, what can we expect but that, the blind leading the blind, both should fall in the ditch!

We cannot see why Poetry should be praised in the proportion that it is divested of plain meaning; why we should be called on to delight in a dark cloud-journey, with only a slight glimpse of light here and there to guide us on our way; why every thought and mode of expression should

* Hughes' *Tragedy of The Siege of Damascus* is founded on an extraordinary episode connected with this event, and here told at length.

be so involved in mystery that it must require the most acute penetration to discern the nature of the one, and long and anxious deliberation to be enabled to guess at the purport of the other. Homer is intelligible enough at a glance; so is Virgil, so is Chaucer, so is Shakspeare, so is Dryden, so is Butler, so is Pope, so is Boileau, so are all the great Masters of Song. Their voices are clear. The dealers in the obscure are the obscure. Darkness cannot be transmitted to posterity. We do most sincerely wish that our mystical bards would make a point of understanding themselves and their subjects; and then, we think, there would be the better and absolutely needful chance of their readers understanding them.

We do not deny that we can make out portions of *Christmas-Eve and Easter-Day*; but we must also confess to the Boettian stolidity which limits our comprehension, both as to the main design and the conduct of the argument to a *modicum* of the whole. The versification, too, is vicious, fantastic, and unallowable; the *simplicities*, prosaic triteness; Pope's "Essay on Criticism" set at naught; and German mannerism and rationalism pervading elements of the most objectionable order. Let us exhibit a few of these traits: the first six lines will serve as an instance of the Baby-simple style:—

"Out of the little chapel I burst
Into the fresh night air again.
I had waited a good five minutes first
In the doorway, to escape the rain
That drove in gusts down the common's centre,
At the edge of which the chapel stands."

A variety of people enter this chapel—

"Groping for the latch
Of the inner door that hung on catch,
More obstinate the more they fumbled,"—

And the beauty of their descriptions may be surmised from the sketch of one of them:—

"The fat weary woman,
Panting and bewildered, down-clapping
Her umbrella with a mighty report,
Grounded it by me, wry and flapping,
A wreck of whalebones."

The chapel is a Dissenting Zion Meeting-house, and our poet did not like it at all, for he says:—

"I very soon had enough of it.
The hot smell and the human noises,
And my neighbour's coat, the greasy cuff of it,
Were a pebble-stone that a child's hand poises,
Compared with the pig-of-lead-like pressure
Of the preaching man's immense stupidity.
As he poured his doctrine forth, full measure,
To meet his audience's avidity.

My gorge rose at the nonsense and stuff of it,
And saying, like Eve when she plucked the apple,
'I wanted a taste, and now there's enough of it,'
I flung out of the little chapel."

He bolts accordingly, and revels in the common air, so refreshing from

"That pastor vociferant,
—How this outside was pure and different!"
There is, however, a smartish simile, affecting the preacher and the preaching:—

"Say rather, such truths looked false to your eyes,
With his provings and parallels twisted and twined,
Till how could you know them, grown double their size,
In the natural fog of the good man's mind?
Like yonder spots of our roadside lamps,
Haloed about with the common's damps."

Then commences a strange *metaphorico-Poetic* flight, to which the introduction will be enough, as an example of Mr. Browning's powers when he is attempting the really beautiful, and also of the versification to which we have alluded:—

"For lo, what think you? suddenly
The rain and the wind ceased, and the sky
Received at once the full fruition
Of the moon's consummate apparition.
The black cloud-barricade was riven,
Rained beneath her feet, and driven
Deep in the west; while, bare and breathless,
North and south and east lay ready
For a glorious Thing, that, dauntless, deathless,
Sprang across them, and stood steady.
'Twas a moon-rainbow, vast and perfect,
From heaven to heaven extending, perfect
As the mother-moon's self, full in face.

It rose, distinctly at the base
With its seven proper colours chorted,
Which still, in the rising, were compressed,
Until at last they coalesced,
And supreme the spectral creature lorded
In a triumph of whitest white,—
Above which intervened the night.
But above night too, like the next,
The second of a wondrous sequence,
Reaching in rare and rarer frequency,
Till the heaven of heavens be circumflect,
Another rainbow rose, a mightier
Fainter, flushier, and flightier,—
Rapture dying along its verge!
Oh, whose foot shall I see emerge,
Whose, from the straining topmost dark,
On to the keystone of that arc?
This sight was shown me, there and then,—
Me, one out of a world of men,
Sung forth, as the chance might hap
To another, if in a thunderclap
Where I heard noise, and you saw flame,
Some one man knew God called his name."

Was there ever such celestial phenomena; such a lunar rainbow, *alias* spectral creature, in such a sky; and such process of formation, and such effects, such succession fainter and flushier? such rapture, such foolishness!

The supernatural flight lands him in some strange place, and its recognition is quite of a piece with the rest:—

"Alone! I am left alone once more—
(Save for the Garment's* extreme fold
Abandoned still to bless my hold)
Alone, beside the entrance-door
Of a sort of temple,—perhaps a college,
—Like nothing I ever saw before
At home in England, to my knowledge.
The tall, old, quaint, irregular town!
It may be, though which, I can't affirm. any
Of the famous middle-age towns of Germany;
And this flight of stairs where I sit down,
Is it Halle, Weimar, Cassel, or Frankfurt,
Or Göttingen, that I have thank for't?
It may be Göttingen,—most likely.
Through the open door I catch obliquely
Glimpses of a lecture-hall;
And not a bad assembly neither—
Ranged decent and symmetrical
On benches, waiting what's to see there;
Which, holding still by the Vesture's hem,
I also resolve to see with them.
Cautious this time how I suffer to slip
The chance of joining in fellowship
With any that call themselves His friends,
As these folks do, I have a notion.
But hush—a buzzing and emotion!
All settle themselves, the while ascends
By the creaking rail to the lecture-desk,
Step by step, deliberate
Because of his cranium's over-freight,
Three parts sublime to one grotesque,
If I have proved an accurate guesser,
The hawk-nosed, high-cheek-boned Professor,
I felt at once as if there ran
A shoot of love from my heart to the man—
That sallow, virgin-minded, studious
Martyr to mild enthusiasm,
As he uttered a kind of cough-pretensions
That woke my sympathetic spasm,
(Beside some spitting that made me sorry)
And stood, surveying his auditory
With a wan pure look, well nigh celestial,—
—Those black eyes had survived so much!
While, under the foot they could not smutch,
Lay all the fleshly and the bestial.
Over he bowed, and arranged his notes,
Till the auditory's clearing of throats
Was done wisely, died in a silence;
And, when each glance was upward sent,
Each bearded mouth composed intent,
And a pin might be heard drop half a mile hence,—
He pushed back higher his spectacles,
Let the eyes stream out like lamps from cells,
And giving his head of hair—a hake
Of undressed tow, for colour and quantity—
One rapid and impatient shake,
(As our own young England adjusts a jaunty tie
When about to impart, on mature digestion,
Some thrilling view of the surprise-question)
—The Professor's grave voice, sweet though hoarse,
Broke into his Christmas-Eve's discourse."

We presume our readers have no desire to have it, either wholesale or retail; and we spare them—closing a volume which has annoyed us exceedingly, for we had higher hopes of the author, and lament to see his talent wasted.

The Romish religion is ridiculed like that of

* We ought to observe that he has been hanging on to the tail of a Garment all the while he has been whisked about Heaven and Earth.—Ed. L. G.

the dissenting chapel. The enthusiasm displayed in the whole performance is painful to contemplate. We cannot shut out the dread of that condition of mind on which it evidently so closely borders.

SUMMARY.

The Claim to the Islands of Cери and Sapienza.

By W. Martin Leake, F.R.S. Booth.

WE fear that this statement disposes of the claim on the part of the Ionian Republic to these Islands, which, instead of being insignificant, as our newspapers have fancied, command two of the most valuable possessions of the Kingdom of Greece, and commanding two of the most important positions in the Mediterranean—viz. the roadstead of Motharic and the Bay of Vatika. Col. Leake, whose authority on Greek questions is of the highest order, shows that they have never been ceded by Treaty, which alone could give a right to them, and that the sole pretence to them is founded on a local Act of the Ionian Government in 1804. Lying close to the shores of the Morea, according to all national law and usage they belong to Greece.

History of the Conquest of Peru. By W. H. Prescott. 4th Edition. Vol. I. Bentley.

FOLLOWING up the acceptable publication of the author's "Conquest of Mexico," in three neat and low-priced volumes, Mr. Bentley has commenced, in the same form, the no less interesting history of the subjugation of Peru. The story of the New World can never grow old, and when told, as Mr. Prescott has shown he can tell it, its past traditions, its state when, unhappily for it, brought within the range of European cupidity, ambition, and the thirst for proselytising, the sanguinary barbarities of its overthrow, and the characteristic pictures of its people, make altogether one of those great episodes in the annals of mankind, which dwell upon the imagination with vivid effect, while they inform the understanding with real knowledge. We are, therefore, always happy to see such works thus adapted for wider diffusion among the less wealthy classes of readers, who read for intelligence and not merely for idle pastime.

The Hamiltons. By Mrs. Gore. Bentley. THIS tale, by a justly admired writer, has judiciously been added to the abundant mass of popular fiction contained in the series of Standard Novels. With such productions as these, we do not care if the line do stretch to the crack of doom; and we are sure that thousands of well-pleased readers agree with us.

Chambers' Papers for the People. Vol. I. Chambers.

MANY of these papers take a higher tone, and belong to a superior class, to those excellent publications which the Messrs. Chambers have addressed to the general mass of readers, who must, in the first instance, be spoken with as if they were young or comparatively ignorant. Those have greatly satisfied their civilizing mission, and it is right, in the course of things, to add something more distinctly of literature to that which was rather to be considered as training and education of mind. Still what is here, is cast into simple frames, and not over-laden with science or learning. The Buonaparte Family is a spirited historical sketch; the Sepulchres of Etruria a well-compiled view of these remains of antiquity; the Cultivation of Music an instructive and comprehensive lesson; and the other divisions (four) various in subject and written with equal ability. The volume is altogether worthy of the source whence it is derived; and that is high praise.

Sections of the London Straits. By R. W. Mylne, C.E. Wyld.

An important contribution, at the present time, towards the solution of the very important questions involved in the drainage and sanitary condition of the metropolis, with its two millions of

inhabitants. Upon an accurate knowledge of the geological formation, below and around London, must depend the practicability and feasibility of any plan for its improvement, in carrying off its sewage, relieving the Thames from its odious impurities, converting what is destructive to health and comfort into a profitable manure for the benefit of the country, and rendering the capital of the British empire a purified, sweet, and cleanly locality, fit for the residence of civilized man. By these sections, five in number, we obtain a more complete idea than before of the depths and variations of our great chalk basin, and its superincumbent strata of blue clay, and pervious plastic clay, sand, and other formations. The wells sunk over this large area are tested, and there is a block plan of London prefixed. But still the publication can only be considered as a valuable first step, for four of the sections are only given in outline, and letter-press explanations of the whole subject are still to be expected. We trust Mr. Mylne will lose no time in furnishing these, and all such data as he can ascertain for our guidance in respect to the supply of water, and the cleansing of our vast Augean stable. We must improve upon Hercules, who managed his labour by means of the River (yet that was only a temporary pollution), and effect our mighty job by resources, such as science has placed at our disposal, since the long bye-gone age of the Grecian demigod.

Miranda; or, Three Steps, and which is the best? Low.

UNDER the guise of a fairy tale, the lesson is inculcated, that in reliance upon religion alone can human happiness be founded, and that the love of nature and exercise of benevolence are insufficient to satisfy the longings of the soul.

A Manual of Logic. By H. H. Munro. Glasgow: Ogle and Son.

THE title-page states that both the deductive and inductive methods are treated of in this manual; but it appears that the former has required so much discussion as to preclude the insertion of the latter. We have, therefore, only to speak of the volume as an able exposition of deductive logic, expressed with as much simplicity as the subject admits, and well calculated to lead the student through all the elementary processes to the most advanced conclusions of the reasoning science.

Oceanus; or, A Peaceful Progress o'er the Unpathed Sea. By Mrs. David Osborne. Longman and Co.

WHY "unpathed," since if there had not been a watery way, or path, we could not have had Mrs. Osborne's *Oceanus*. The stories and geographical and other instructions are taken from many books of voyages and travels, and strung together in a conversational and class form by a family circle. With some imperfections, it is a likely publication to interest youth, and, through that interest, impress them with a fair portion of general information.

The Fly Sheets verbatim. Gilbert.

BITTER schism in the Wesleyan connexion, and sustained by personal charges against the leading members, such as Dr. Bunting, Dr. Newton, and others, which go beyond even the usual odium theologicum. Even drunkenness is imputed in some cases, among other vices; but selfishness, intrigue, inordinate vanity, cant, corruption, and malpractices in administering the affairs of the society, are liberally and profusely ascribed to all and sundry the chiefs of the Conference, the "London clique," and the managers of Methodistical affairs.

A Treatise on the Climate and Meteorology of Madeira. By the late Dr. J. A. Mason. Edited by J. Sheridan Knowles. London: Churchill. Liverpool: Deighton and Laughton.

THE invalid will find in this volume all the intelligence which medical skill can supply for the guidance of the weary wanderer in search of

health; and the visitor to the island a pleasant guide, with an able retrospect and present description, by Mr. Driver, the Consul there for Greece. There is also given, at length, the Review of its Agriculture, and of the Tenure of Land, which the Dean of Ely communicated in an abstract to the British Association, as reported in our page; so that we may well say of communications gathered together from so many excellent sources, they form a whole, almost exhausting the subject of Madeira in all its relations to the rest of the world.

Postal Parliamentary Directory. Kelly. LIKE all the works of the Messrs. Kelly's, this annual publication, corrected to the present date, contains a mass of useful intelligence arranged in the most facile and business-like manner for reference. Every thing connected with intercommunication between London and the country is explained to the letter; and the addresses of Peers and Commons furnished for those who require to write to or call upon them. Nor are foreign parts neglected, but the principal places and cities throughout the world are catalogued, and railway and other means of transmission to and fro fully described. In short, as a needful supplement to the Post Office Directory, it is enough to say it partakes of the merits of that extraordinary compilation.

An Address to the Protectionist Constituency, &c. By "Pro Ecclesia Dei." Pickering.

A FEARFUL attack on Mr. Cobden, Mr. F. O'Connor, and the "unprincipled Times;" calling for firm union among the loyal, and prophesying as the results that the country will be saved from ruin and Protection restored.

The Hand of God in History. By Morris Read, A.M. Edited by the Rev. H. Christmas, M.A. Bentley.

THIS is a reprint from America, and worthily edited. The great object is to deduce from historical events the same argument for an overruling Providence which Paley has drawn from Nature. With the religious and political tenets of the author we meddle not; and especially as Mr. Christmas has softened some of them which were most likely to provoke controversy on this side of the Atlantic. The purpose of the book is of the most laudable kind.

The Hurricane Guide; being an attempt to connect the Rotatory Gale or Revolving Storm with Atmospheric Waves. By W. Radcliff Birt. Murray.

MR. BIRT'S labours and zeal in the investigation of the phenomena of atmospheric waves are so well-known and so highly appreciated, that this little useful, practical work, requires no recommendation to accompany an announcement of its publication. Its contents are, without going over the ground so well occupied by Redfield, Reid, Piddington, and Thom, the essential phenomena of revolving storms as manifested by the barometer and vane—the phenomena of atmospheric waves according to the views of Dove and Birt—a system of observations having especial reference to atmospheric waves and rotatory storms—and practical directions for avoiding the centres of storms.

Letters to a Young Gentleman about to enter the University of Oxford. By an Oxonian. Oxford: Vincent. London: Whittakers.

OR a deep religious caste; treats of the employment of time, friendship, ambition, and other emotions, passions, and relations of life. The advice is grave and sound; happy the Youth who can apply any considerable portion of it to his conduct amid the scenes of temptation into which he is now being plunged. There is, nevertheless, an odd mingling of the very serious in counsel and in language with the satirical and almost grotesque in both. For example,—

"Another general rule is, be not a companion of men whose conversation consists wholly of tea-table twaddle, drawing-room drawing, or gaiety's gossip; or whose amusements are those

of the vulgar and uncultivated. In the former case you waste time, in the latter, you vitiate your tastes and blunt your feelings. Are no topics more interesting to rational men than the debut of an opera singer or the death of an actress; none more invigorating than the state of the weather or the changes of the barometer; more instructive than the last new murder or quickly expected suicide; more amiable than the bad character of a neighbour, or the virtues of self; more profitable than regattas, steeple chase, and hunts; none more engaging than the latest extravagancy of fashion, or the ugliness of the newest palette? These are the topics with which hundreds fritter away an existence, and imagine that they are useful members of society.

"Or again, in amusements, are there none more intellectual than drying up your brains with the soot of accumulated cigars, or fuddling your senses with the fumes of liquor? none more exciting than attempting to break your neck over a five-barred gate, or standing in exultation over the quivering and mangled limbs of an expiring hare? none more virtuous than destroying virtue and blighting innocence; more healthy than spending the night in debauchery and wasting the day in listlessness; more prudent than gambling; more honourable than swearing; more noble than trifling through hours of immortal man's existence, in persecuting a defenceless partridge? It may be that such employments are the acmé of propriety, as they undoubtedly are when judged by the rule of fashion, but they certainly are not the prescribed means of gaining heaven, which assuredly is, or ought to be, the chief object of every man's life. Yet, in such employments, amusements, frivolities, and viciousness, do ten out of every twelve young men of England spend the most precious season of life."

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE. ROMAN COINS.

SIR,—I have the honour to enclose you the extract of a letter from my friend and correspondent Baron de Rennenkampff, the Chief Chamberlain of H. R. H. the Grand Duke of Oldenburg, and President of the Museum of Antiquities at Oldenburg, which is almost entirely indebted to that gentleman for its collection. However much the loss of 4,500 coins, which might so materially have illustrated history, is to be regretted, we may, nevertheless, congratulate the cause of antiquarian research on the tithe which have been saved; at the same time, the best thanks of all antiquarians are due to Baron Rennenkampff for the activity he has displayed, notwithstanding the present bad state of his health, in rescuing the five hundred coins at least from the crucible of the Altona Hebrew.—P. COLAQUORNI.

"Discovery of Roman Silver Coins in the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg.—A most interesting circumstance, the particulars of which have much occupied my attention, has occurred here lately. Some poor day labourers in the neighbourhood of the small town of Jever, on the border of Marsch and Gest, found, in a circle of a few feet, at a depth of from 7 to 8 feet, a heap of small Roman coins, of fine silver, being 5,000 pieces of Roman denarii. The half of them immediately fell into the hands of a Jew of Altona, at a very inconsiderable price. The greatest portion of the remainder were dispersed before I gained intelligence of it, and I only succeeded in collecting some 500 of it, and I only succeeded in collecting some permitted pieces for the Grand Duke's collection, who permitted me to remunerate the discoverers with four times the value of the metal. The coins date between the years 69 and 170 after Christ, while the oldest which have hitherto been discovered on the European Continent, in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, &c., date from 170 or 180. Each piece bears the effigy of one of the Emperors of the time, the reverse is adorned with the impression of some occurrence, (a woman lying down with a chariot wheel, and beneath it the legend *via Trajaceae*, a trophy, and on the escutcheon *Dacia capta*, &c.) and these are so various that pairs have only been found in a few cases. The discovery is so much the more wonderful, as, historically, no trace can be found of the Romans having penetrated so far down as Jever."

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

March 28th.—Sir Charles Lyell in the chair. Read:—"On the Relations of the existing Hot Water and Vapour Sources of Tuscany to the Igneous and Metamorphic Rocks from which they issue, and to the Volcanic Eruptions, past and present, of the Peninsula of Italy," by Sir Roderick Murchison. In calling attention to the remarkable hot vapour sources of the Tuscan Maremma, which have been described by writers, from Targioni Tozzetti, in the last century, to many of the present day, including our countrymen Mr. Babbage and Mr. W. Hamilton, the author first showed, that they issued upon lines of fissure precisely coincident with the bands of interrupted serpentine and associated igneous rocks, and especially at those points where such rocks had fractured and metamorphosed the alberese and macigno, or cretaceous, and older eocene formations, on lines trending from N. and by W. to S. and by E. The district so affected is an upland trough, subtended on the E. and W. by ridges of jurassic limestone, and on the N. and S. by tertiary formations, of miocene and pliocene age. One of these lines of the vapour sources (Monte Cerboli, or Lardarello) is selected to show that at its N.N.W. extremity, where serpentine and "gabbro" penetrate the alberese, the thermal springs of St. Michele occur; that, further to the S., the same conjunction of rocks is again accompanied at Monte Cerboli by thermal springs, which, in addition to several salts and gases, (according to the Florentine chemist, Targioni Tozzetti), contain boracic acid; and in following the same line still further to the S. and by E., hot water springs being again met with at Bagni a Morbo, hot vapours issue from a rent in the rocks at Castel Nuovo, similar to that of Monte Cerboli. Sir Roderick then shows that the other boracic acid vapours of this tract (which is about eight or nine miles long by five miles broad) occur in parallel fissures in rocks like those of the above type. He then asserts that the "gabbro rosso" of the Tuscans, which has been injected into these fissures, is an amorphous imbedded rock of true eruptive character, connected with the serpentine, and not a metamorphosed rock, as supposed by some writers; and sections were given to indicate how it has broken up and variously altered the sedimentary strata in contact, occasionally imparting to them its own red character. A brief allusion was then made to the effects of the earthquake of 1847, and how its disastrous effects coincided with the N.N.W. and S.S.E. direction of the lines of issue of the boracic vapours, and how the principal destruction of property and life occurred on the hillocks or the longitudinal valleys of incoherent tertiary marl; further reference being made to the works of Savi and Pilla. The direction of the vapour fissures of Tuscany is coincident in the N. and by W. with the lofty ridge of the Western Apennines (Apuan Alps), and its minor parallels, in the bay of La Spezia, consisting of highly metamorphosed strata (Carra: a marble), and terminates northwards in the great serpentine region of Parma and the Genovesato. Looking to this last mentioned tract as the chief centre of eruption, the author points out how those bands of eruption proceeding therefrom (each band containing minor parallels within itself), which have given to Italy and her western islands their dominant features, are not parallel, but divergent, as respects large masses of land; though, whatever be the direction of the ridges, the same intrusive rocks have cut up and altered the same sedimentary strata, thereby clearly fixing the age and the simultaneity of the operation. Thus, the serpentines which traverse the cretaceous and nummulitic rocks of Corsica trend almost N. and S.—a line, it is to be observed, on which there are undeniable proofs of former bands, as indicated by the Silurian fossils and coal plants of Sardinia, which range

along an ancient granitic shore. On the east, on the contrary, the main chain of the Apennines, whose back bone has been determined by the serpentine eruptions between Florence and Bologna, diverges still more from the parallelism of the Apuan band, and tends to the S.E.; and it is in this line that the chief elevations have occurred; the Gran Sasso d'Italia (9,500 feet above the sea) being composed of cretaceous or nummulitic rocks. Yet, with all their grandeur of outline and crystalline aspect, the Apennines contain only secondary and older tertiary rocks, and offer no proof that any portion of them (excepting perhaps Calabria), was dry land until that period of intense eruptive activity, which, in evolving the serpentines and other igneous rocks, raised up similar masses, and gave to the peninsula its crystalline and rugged centre. After a long period of quiescence, during which the miocene strata were deposited, and in a great part formed out of the debris of the rocky skeleton above described, another great movement occurred, which dislocated these middle tertiaries, with their conglomerates and coal fields, and this movement seems, on the whole, to have been alinated with that of the preceding epoch. The granites of Elba and Piombino, which traverse the serpentine, were, partially, accompaniments of this disturbance. At a later period the subaqueous volcanic rocks of the Campagna di Roma and Naples were elaborated in the same general direction as the Apennines, which they flank. The author here reminded his auditors that the Alps, which had also undergone their greatest mutations and elevations after the nummulitic and miocene periods, had a chief axis from N.E. to S.W., or nearly at right angles to that of the Apennines, and that the former differed from the latter in possessing the same dorsal spine of ancient and palaeozoic rocks which characterises the Sardinian or meridian direction, and also in having never had any true volcanic rocks. It follows, therefore, that chains trending from N. to S. and from N. E. to S. W. have preserved their directions from the earliest periods, and have been affected by eruptions and lines of dislocations, more or less parallel to their original axis, at subsequent periods; whilst the Apennines, exhibiting no signs of high antiquity, have been mainly metamorphosed and raised up at the same periods, though their axes radiate towards the S.E. The chief skeleton of Italy having been formed by the serpentine eruptions and their accompaniments, we have evidence in the ejections of Vesuvius, on the S.S.E., and in the hot fumes of Tuscany, on the N.N.W., that the igneous agency, which re-occurred in great force at former epochs and produced the Apennine mountains, is still active on a small scale along this one and the same band of eruption.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

April 8th.—Sir Roderick I. Murchison, V.P., in the chair. Read:—"Notes on the Geography of South Africa," by Mr. Macqueen; and a letter from Mr. Oswell on the newly-discovered South African Lake, "Ngami." After bestowing a well-merited encomium upon the geographical labours of Messrs. Livingston, Moffatt, Oswell, Murray, and Varden, Mr. Macqueen proceeded, in his summary on the geography of that portion of Africa, taking Mosega, situated on the head branch of the Marikwa, S. lat. 25 deg. 35 min. and E. long. 25 deg. 52 min., as his starting point. He considers the Limpopo and the Oori as forming one and the same stream, receiving, in lat. 24 deg. 10 min. and long. 26 deg. 33 min., the Marikwa from the S.W. The Cashan range of hills rise about 600 feet from an elevated table land, probably 5,000 feet above the level of the sea. Prior to the late successful expedition in search of the lake, Mr. Macqueen had furnished Mr. Oswell with a copy of his map, in which the lake was placed exactly in its present latitude, the two newly-discovered rivers being alone

wanting. Four years ago Mr. Macqueen, in a paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, making use of Mr. Livingston's words, stated—"A short distance beyond my furthest point north there is a fresh water lake, called Makkoro, or the Lake of the Boat, on account of the canoes which are found upon it. The banks are level with the water, and the surrounding country flat; hippopotami, alligators, and various kinds of fish abound in it. Bamboo and other reeds grow on its banks, and dangerous fevers prevail on its shores. Many natives live and trade around it. They are armed with guns, procured from the Portuguese on the east coast. Its position is about 20 deg. 20 min. S. lat. and 24 deg. 30 min. E. long. Native travellers state that a considerable stream flows from it to the north-east," &c. According to Mr. Macqueen, the Limpopo, or Oori, with its numerous tributaries, flows into the Indian Ocean, to the south of Chulawan and Holy Island. Mr. Moffatt, on his late visit to Maselakate, fell in with a man of the Baquiana tribe, who had been the guide to the expedition of Dr. Cowan, in his endeavour to penetrate to the Portuguese settlements of the east coast. This man told Mr. Moffatt that he had conducted Dr. Cowan and his colleagues in a north-east direction, until they had crossed a large river, running east, where he left them, as they intended proceeding down its banks towards Sofala. Curiously enough, Capt. Owen was informed at Sofala that these unfortunate travellers had been murdered twelve days' journey in the interior, and Capt. Wm. Cook received much the same account at Quilimana. E.N.E. of the lake Mr. Macqueen says that the mountains are covered with snow, and the circumstance that the supplies to the lake proceed from the N. and N.W. is of great importance with regard to the general geography of Africa. It discloses at once the sources of the streams, which, with others from the central districts more to the north, form that great river, which enters the sea in 17 deg. 50 min. S. lat., and of which Nourse's River is undoubtedly a branch. The river alluded to is a very large stream, even during the dry season exceeding in size the Orange River where it enters the Atlantic. The earliest of the Portuguese navigators were well aware of the existence of the high mountains in this quarter, and called them "Mountains of the Moon," which has led more recent geographers to class them with the Mountains of the Moon reported to exist near the equator. Mr. Cook says, "that the Swakop enters the sea nearly a degree more to the north than has hitherto been supposed, and that at some distance to the north of it the Atlantic penetrates deeply into that portion of the Continent."

Viscount Banderia, in a letter to Mr. Macqueen, confirms the report that the River Coanza takes its rise in a lake, and says that a Portuguese traveller, who had returned from that portion of Africa only a short time before, informed him that there was more than one lake supplying that well-known stream; and that, to the best of his knowledge, no direct communication exists from Southern Benguela through the interior to Tete. Before leaving Southern Africa Mr. Macqueen says, that there is something unsatisfactory, and yet unexplained, concerning the River Luaba and its connection with the River of Quilimana, and also the Zambeze. Starting at once from the River of Quilimana, only a few yards wide, the Luaba is entered, a mighty stream about one mile broad, and with a rapid current. We hear little or nothing more about it, and then find the Zambeze at Tete; while Lacerda informs us that, at the spot where the Zambeze passes through the Lupata Mountains, the stream was so shallow that he was compelled to unload his boats and travel by land until he passed beyond the dreary passage.

The letter from Mr. Oswell was directed to Capt. Varden, and contained an interesting ac-

count of his route, in company with Messrs. Livingston and Murray, for the discovery of the lake, together with a promise of a future communication upon his return from his next excursion, in which he may possibly be joined by Messrs. F. Galton and Anderson, now under weigh for the Cape.

Capt. Varden exhibited a specimen of the cloth made by the natives in this portion of Africa, dyed with the wild indigo of the country; likewise the enormous tusks of the African wild hog, together with the flat head of a fish abounding in the lake, as well as the fly so dangerous to the cattle and horses of the traveller. The fly and the fish are unquestionably new, and hitherto undescribed, and excited great interest.

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

April 6th.—Professor Wilson in the chair. A considerable collection of ancient terra cotta figures, procured by Mr. W. B. Barker in the vicinity of Tarsus, in Cilicia, was produced by that gentleman for the inspection of the meeting; and the Secretary read a report by Mr. L. J. Abington, upon some of the specimens which had been submitted to his examination. Mr. Abington considered the relics to be Roman, and to have been made about the time of Augustus, when Tarsus was a Roman colony. The spot where they were found was probably the site of a Cerameus, or ancient pottery, and some of the specimens produced appear to have been thrown aside in consequence of having been imperfectly moulded. Among the choicest of the relics were heads of Pallas and Apollo, the body of Hercules, and a figure of the Boy Mercury. The heads of Apollo were peculiar in being rayed, and, in one instance, furnished with wings, and this unusual appendage might be attributed to an embodiment of the Phœnician and Egyptian worship of the sun with that of the Greek Apollo, all myths of similar origin. The wings may be accounted for by the circumstance of Apollo having been the tutelary deity of Tarsus, which name is said to have been derived from the Greek "*tarsos*," winged or feathered. The miniature figure of the Boy Mercury was very good, and the subtle innocence of the little thief admirably depicted by the artist, although the model did not possess much finish. The whole collection exhibited a strange incongruity of high artistic excellence and bad workmanship, being moulded from good originals but made by men of very inferior skill. It also showed the great advantage which modern art has derived from the use of plaster instead of the ancient burnt-clay moulds, as many imperfections found in them are entirely attributable to the inferior qualities of the material from which the moulds were made. Some of the figures retain on their backs the impress of the workman's fingers, showing that the hand was used to force the clay into the mould, and that the use of the sponge beater was unknown, although we derive this valuable material almost from the very doors of these image makers. If the sponge had been used the eye-lids, lips, &c., would have been more perfect than is the case in several of the specimens exhibited.

Some discussion followed the reading of this communication. Several members pronounced the relics Greek, and that some of them were at least anterior to the age of Alexander; but the form of some details, amongst others that of Minerva's helmet, was said to indicate a Roman period. The conclusion appeared to be that the epoch of manufacture was Roman though the artists were, in all probability, Greeks. The Greek derivation of the name of Tarsus was also disputed, and a Semitic origin was assigned, it being held that Tarsus was identical with the Tharshish of Scripture, but there could be no doubt that the Greek derivation of the name was accepted by artists as well suited to an emblematic representation.

The Secretary then read a communication from

Colonel Sykes, being a letter addressed to him by Ensign Hugo Jones, giving some account of the Derajat, or district west of the Indus.

After the fall of Mooltan, a force of about 3,000 men was sent to the assistance of Lieut. Taylor, who was engaged in occupying the country about Bunnoo. Mr. Jones accompanied the force which proceeded to Leia, on the Indus, a distance of four marches, over a sandy, uneven country, studded with dilapidated forts. The dwellers in and around these were, if report spoke truly, robbers, and practised agriculture only as a blind to their predatory occupations, which, upon examination of their fields, appeared, in several instances, to be the truth. Leia is about four miles from the river, and its population, which consists principally of Hindoos, is said to amount to five or six thousand souls. The environs are highly cultivated. From Leia they proceeded two marches through a more cultivated country, to Bukkur, which is inhabited chiefly by Mahomedans, who hailed the arrival of the force with joy. It required some trouble to make the natives of this and other places understand that no presents would be received, and that provisions supplied would all be paid for. This course was so different from the practice of the Sikh Sardars that it was almost incomprehensible, but, when understood, produced a most favourable impression. The force then proceeded to Kalloor, and thence, over the river, to Esakhail and Bunnoo, where they occupied the fort of Bunnoo without firing a shot. Thence they proceeded upwards to Lukkee, on the Kurroon river. Lukkee is by no means a small place, but it has a very poor appearance. The inhabitants are a fine race, and appear to be industrious, and the work of their artisans is rude and simple, but they seem to be intelligent and willing to learn. The country around is very beautiful and fertile, and the land is extensively cultivated, depending for its irrigation chiefly on the rain which frequently falls in delightful showers. Corn and provisions are plentiful and cheap. From Lukkee a party set out on an excursion, through the hills, to Dera Ismail Khan. The inhabitants of the hills received the party kindly. They are an uneducated race, and live chiefly on grain, meat being indulged in only on grand occasions. The killing of cows was prohibited by the Seikhs, and every one found guilty of slaughtering one was imprisoned for seven or eight years, and perhaps for life, or even put to death. The hills are composed chiefly of sandstone, and vary in height from 500 to 2,000 feet. The Paisley Pass, through which the party proceeded, is about three and a half miles long and very narrow, and, on emerging from it, they entered a waste track, uncultivated from want of water. Bears, hyenas, and wild goats are found in the hills, and antelopes are numerous in the plains. Dera Ismail Khan is a well-built town, surrounded by a wall, and contains about 15,000 inhabitants, many of whom are Hindoos. Leaving this place they proceeded to Baloot, under the hills, which is situated in a most luxuriant country. Some curious stone buildings were discovered in the vicinity, of which the natives could give no account. Five miles higher up, on the banks of the Indus, is Kafir Kote, or "Infidel's Place," where are found the remains of a magnificent stone fort, which must, in former times, have been impregnable. The position is a most commanding one, and was evidently built by a good soldier, but it is very doubtful if it is the work of Alexander, as some have supposed. In consequence of letters requiring his presence at head quarters, Mr. Jones's travels in this district were brought to an abrupt close.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday.—Chemical, 8 p.m.—Medical, 8 p.m.—Pathological, 8 p.m.
Tuesday.—Linnean, 8 p.m.—Horticultural, 3 p.m.—Civil Engineers, ("Discussion on Locks and Keys,"—Mr. Mallet, "Description of the Insistent Pontoon Bridge, erected at

Dublin, on the Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland," 8 p.m.)

Wednesday.—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.—Microscopical, 8 p.m.—Archæological Association, (Council) 4 p.m.

Thursday.—Royal, 8 p.m.—Antiquaries, 8 p.m.

Friday.—Royal Institution, (Mr. Stenhouse, "On the Artificial Production of Organic Bases," 8 p.m.)

Saturday.—Asiatic, 2 p.m.—Westminster Medical, 8 p.m.

FINE ARTS.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR THE EXHIBITION OF MODERN ART.

THE private view of the pictures takes place to-day at the new rooms, which are called the Portland Gallery. We have had the pleasure of taking a hasty preliminary view, and can promise a great treat: the landscapes are especially worthy of remark, some by S. R. Percy are of the highest standard in the path of nature painting. 207, A Woodland Scene, and 277, Snowdon, are prominent examples; others by A. W. Williams and G. A. Williams, are very beautiful specimens in the same line. The President, Mr. R. S. Lauder, R.S.A., has three excellent pictures of the historical class, of which those relating to the time of Louis XI., Gallioti showing a Specimen of Printing to the King, and that from Walter Scott's novel of "Quentin Durward," are remarkable. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. Bell Smith, has some good portraits, both in oil and water-colour. A large historical work by L. W. Desanges is also worthy of high commendation. Mr. M'lan has several pictures, which surpass anything of his we have hitherto seen; and Mrs. M'lan's picture, "Captivity and Liberty," shows rare talents. There are many other capital pictures, by Bentley, M. Claxton, C. Dukes, F. Newenham, Parker, Rosselli, &c. &c., and, altogether, we feel this exhibition to be one of the most interesting of the day, as emanating from a small, but clever, body of artists, who appear to be actuated with true feelings for the promotion of the Fine Arts, and who have our hearty wishes for their still greater success. We shall, of course, return to the Portland Gallery again, and as the origin of this young society and its merits have considerable weight in reference to the general subject of the present position of our school of art and artists, we intend devoting some attention to it in a future *Gazette*.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Paris, Thursday.

LAMARTINE'S *Toussaint Louverture*—the famous tragedy which has been reposing in manuscript for years, and for years been one of our standing topics of literary gossip—has at last seen the light of the lamps. It was on the stage of the Porte St. Martin that it was introduced to the world, last Saturday night was the time, and Frederick Lemaître, the greatest living actor of France, was the hero. The vast theatre was crammed to suffocation; all the literary, political, artistic, and fashionable notabilities of the land were present; there was shouting so vociferous that it must have gladdened even the author's heart, ravenous as it is for praise; and when the curtain fell, he—an unusual honour in France—was summoned to the front of his box, to be shouted at again, louder and more violent than before.

As an acting play, the tragedy is assuredly not destined to any very long career of success. It is too long, too deficient in incident, too incoherent, too devoid of an intelligible plot. There is, moreover, something ludicrous in it, from the fact, that nearly all its personages, male and female, are blacks—real, downright, unmistakable, jet-black-black-like *niggers*. Another defect in it is, that the hero and all his companions not only do not excite sympathy, but are positively repulsive to a French audience, inasmuch as they express deadly hatred to France in particular, and to white men in

general, and every act of courage or heroism they perform is a cruel condemnation of the French. The play was admirably acted, especially by Lemaître, and was beautifully put on the stage.

In a literary point of view, *Toussaint Louverture* is decidedly *Lamartinish*; that it contains passages of great beauty, of real poetic fervour, of striking, almost terrible energy, but mixed up with much that is vague, dreamy, exaggerated, or false—much, also, that is perfectly incomprehensible, and not a little that is unquestionable twaddle. The principal character is drawn with considerable power, but after all it is rather a hacknied one on the stage; we have, indeed, hundreds of *Toussaints*, who, throughout acts innumerable, combat courageously and gloriously for liberty and country, only their skins are white. One of the most pleasing things in the tragedy is a sort of negro paraphrase of the *Marseillaise*, which is sung by the blacks in the course of the first scene:—

"Enfants des noirs, proscrits du monde
Pauvre chair changée en troupeau
Qui de vous-même race inhumaine
Portez le deuil sur votre peau !
Relevez du sol votre tête
Osez retrouver en tout lieu,
Des femmes, des enfans, un Dieu,
Le nom d'homme est votre conquête !"

One of the most admired tirades of Toussaint is the following:—

"Toussaint.—" Dans un pauvre vieux noir cependant
Quelle audace !
De prendre seul en main la cause de sa race ;
De se dire : Selon que j'aurai résolu,
Il en sera d'eux tous ce que j'aurai voulu !
Dans mes réflexions du mot fatal suivies,
Je pèse avec la mienne un million de vies,
Si j'ai mal entendu... si j'ai mal répété
Le sens de Dieu !... Malheur à ma posterité !
Dieu ne sonne qu'une heure à notre délivrance,
Opprobre à qui la perd ! mort à qui la devance !
(Il s'écroule, touche la terre du front, tire un chapelet,
ou pend un crucifix, de son sein, et pleure.)
Ah ! combien j'ai besoin d'interceder celui
Dont l'inspiration sur tous mes pas, a lui.
(Il prie.)
Crucifié pour tous ! symbole d'agonie
Et de rédemption !
(Il s'interrompt, et reprend avec amertume.)
Quelle amère ironie !

Où se heurte mon cœur lorsque je veux prier ?
Quoi ! c'est le Dieu des blancs qu'il nous faut supplier ?

Ces féroces tyrans, dont le joug nous insulte,
Nous ont donné le Dieu que profane leur culte,
En sorte qu'il nous faut, en tombant à genoux,
Effacer leur image entre le ciel et nous !
Eh bien ! leur propre Dieu contre eux est mon refuge !
Il fut leur Rédempteur, mais il sera leur juge
La justice à ses yeux n'aura plus de couleur,
Puisqu'il choisit la croix il aime le malheur !"

In the same spirit is an address of a monk, which is not deficient in energetic eloquence, and which would, I am sure, have had tremendous success at Exeter Hall during the anti-slavery agitation:—

Le Moine.—" Je sers un autre maître
Qui ne connaît ni blancs, ni noirs, ni nations,
Qui s'indigne là-haut de ces distinctions,
Qui d'un égal amour dans sa grandeur embrasse
Tous ceux qu'il anima du souffle de sa grace,
Qui ne hait que l'impie et les persécuteurs,
Et soutient de son bras les bras libérateurs.
Levons les mains vers lui pendant la sainte lutte !
Je suis de la couleur de ceux qu'on persécute ;
Sans aimer, sans haïr les drapeaux différens,
Partout où l'homme souffre, il me voit dans ses rangs.
Plus une race humaine est vaincue et flétrie,
Plus elle m'est sacrée et devient ma patrie.
J'ai quitté mon pays, j'ai cherché sous le ciel
Quels étaient les plus vils des enfans d'Israël,
Quels vermineux objets, d'un talon plus superbe,
Le pied cruel des blancs écrasait nus sur l'herbe,
J'ai vu que c'était vous ! vous sur qui votre peau
Du deuil de la nature étendit le drapeau.
Vous, insectes humains, vermine au feu promise,
Contre qui la colère aux plus doux est permise,
Que le plus vil des blancs peut encore mépriser,

Que le fou peut railler, que l'enfant peut briser,
Qu'un revendeur de chair vend, colporte et transplante,
Comme un fumier vivant qui féconde une plante,
Sans pères, sans enfans, nomades en tout lieu,
Hors la loi de tout peuple et hors la loi de Dieu,
A qui, pour conserver plus de prééminence,
Le blanc, comme un forfait, défend l'intelligence,
Moi, je serai le feu, les blancs seront le but.
De la terre et du ciel misérable rebut !
Montrez, en éclatant, race à la fin vengée,
De quelle explosion le temps vous a chargée."

An harangue of Toussaint to the blacks, exciting them to resistance against the French, and recapitulating, with much wild indignation, the manifold wrongs and oppressions they and their race had long endured, is very fine, but, unfortunately, too long for quotation. In the last act Toussaint figures in a thrilling scene—an interview with his family. Both he and the children express themselves in beautiful language, and, what is more, are remarkably true to nature. I extract the following from this part:—

Isaac, (Toussaint's son, praying.)

" Dieu descende du ciel dans le sein d'une femme,
Pour porter nos fardeaux, pour délivrer notre ame ;
Dieu n'est dans une étable et mort sur une croix,
Je prie en ton saint nom le père en qui tu crois !
J'aime ta pauvreté, j'espère en ton supplice ;
Par les gouttes de sang de ton divin calice,
Sanctifie, O Jésus ! sur le front du chrétien,
Les gouttes de sueur qui décollaient du tien !
(Toussaint relève la tête avec orgueil.)

Fais-nous, par ton exemple, honorer notre père,
Fais-nous croître et souffrir les yeux sur notre mère !
Donne-nous le repas d'es oiseaux du buisson,
Le grain qui sur le champ reste après la moisson,
Et, pour bénir l'état où tu nous a fait naître,
Un bon père là-haut ! sur la terre un bon maître !
(Toussaint se leve avec indignation ; ses enfans étouffent ses larmes avec lui.)

Toussaint, (avec force.)

Un maître ! Qu'as-tu dit ? Le nègre n'en a plus !
Ces mots sont effacés, ces temps sont disparus !
Debout, enfans, debout, le noir enfin est homme !
Spartacus a brisé ses fers ailleurs qu'à Rome !
Un maître ! Ah ! de ce mot tout mon cœur a saigné ;
Il me rappelle, au cri de mon sang indigné,
Que mes fils dans mes bras sont le présent d'un traître,
Que j'ai des ennemis ! ah ! oui ! mais de maître !"

SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION, 1851.

We do not think we ought to feel alarm, though after all the magniloquent speeches and magnificent promises on the subject we cannot help feeling much disappointment that the subscriptions to the Great National Exhibition of 1851 have not been more productive. "We (*Times*) presume it is quite settled that the preliminary expenses of the intended exhibition are to be met by private subscriptions. Since the point was first mooted there has been throughout the country but one cry to this effect. Any feeble endeavour we might make just to insinuate the faintest suspicion of a doubt, that after the first burst of the great subscribers possibly there might be a certain delay, a hanging-back, a disinclination, on the part of the great mass of the community to pay up, was met with almost indignation. But we grieve to say it, the time has come for giving the public a broad hint that if this exhibition is to be carried out on a scale suitable to the dignity of this country, and commensurate with the magnitude of the objects we are supposed to have in view, they must show a little more practical zeal in the matter. The managers of the undertaking find themselves crippled already for want of means. In a word, the public must not send the PRINCE and the Commission through the Insolvent Court because they are the managers of a national undertaking. It should be understood that this is one of the cases in which *bis dat qui cito dat*. A flood of subscriptions at the beginning of next year would be a poor set-off against such a moderate but timely supply of necessary funds as would enable the managers to carry out the project with a firm hand, and therefore to a successful issue."—*Leader in Times*.

The warm interest taken in its promotion by the COURT, operating upon a wide-spread class of persons in high station and emulative tradesmen, wishing to curry favour in that quarter, might have been calculated upon for more than fashionable associations and gallant proceedings, the pecuniary fruits of which bear small proportion to the attraction of the additional motive and the West-end splendour of the preparation.

The grand CITY of London Meeting, also, appears to have brought forth an inconsiderable result, notwithstanding their being addressed (and the whole mercantile metropolis through them) with energetic appeals to their pride, that it would be disgraceful to embark in such a cause without carrying it triumphantly through, and this by the highest political influences, with which Citizens naturally desire to stand well; whilst a Wealthy Banker, now a Peer, attacked them on the usually more efficacious side of Mammon, and urged them to put their hands liberally into their pockets, as the exhibition would lead to an immense influx of foreign visitors and the consequent expenditure of large sums of money among them.

Westminster and various London localities and adjacent districts have taken up the ball, and there has been a superabundance of oratory, and of bustle among the busy bodies who are apt to thrust themselves forward on public occasions; but still the wool has borne no proportion to the "great cry."

Neither have the rich marts of manufactures and commerce responded to the call as might have been anticipated from their lofty language. The cotton capital bragging through its commissioner that it would furnish 20,000*l.* has not, we believe, furnished as many hundreds;* and Leeds has fallen below even this Manchester minimum.

Elsewhere, throughout the country, as far as can be learnt from returns made, there is a like short-coming of the expected and necessary funds.

How is this? Surely the English nation have not become a people of words and boasting instead of deeds and realities? When it was a matter of speculation, individuals could be found to offer their thousands of pounds on the chance of a profit; but now when every conceivable stimulus has been applied, the general result is almost paltry, and some of the details are as little to be admired.

Retail-dealers and tradesmen make their subscriptions vehicles for puff, and the contributions of their many shopmen and workmen figure for large numbers and moderate amounts, perhaps some 3*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* in the former instance, and 4*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* in the latter.

In other cases, real as well as moral bullying is resorted to; and letters to the newspapers hold up to odium persons and institutions who do not find it expedient to obey the mandate that bids them "stand and deliver."

The *Morning Chronicle* has incautiously thrown an impediment in the way of the subscription, by asserting the exhibition to be an "Inauguration of Free Trade," which has provoked a Protectionist and Agricultural jealousy, superadded to the distress which previously affected these important classes as an impediment to liberal contributions. "This," remarks the *Cambridge Chronicle*, "at once closed the purses of thousands,

* We see the subscription is 3080*l.*—Ed. L.G.

† In this respect we do not follow Lord Brougham, though there was some truth in his remark on the subject; but instance, as an example, the annexed passage (from a long puff letter in the *Times*) upon a want of readiness in certain parties to send their treasures to the Adelphi Exhibition of Medieval Art:—"I do think that neither of our two Universities—and Oxford least of the two—have responded as they ought to have done to the appeal of the Society of Arts, and when Her Majesty sets so gracious an example in exhibiting her property for the improvement of the public taste, and that example has been followed by persons in all ranks, I trust you will agree with me in thinking this dog-in-the-manger policy on the part of the Universities eminently disgraceful."

March 24.

PIMLICOLA."

and the hopes of carrying out the scheme to a successful issue have become seriously diminished. Of course Prince Albert is acquitted of any such narrow views as those propounded in the *Morning Chronicle*. He, however, is no more than one among many in this matter; and as the free-trade party have been so indiscreet as to mar the prospects of the scheme by their virulent partisanship, his Royal Highness had better look to them for the lacking cash."

The doubts and difficulties attending the question of Money Prizes and their Adjudication, has, also, had a bad effect.

The endeavours to move the working classes to any extent have failed; notwithstanding the flattering unctious, which, to say the truth, have in style and tone been more akin to trading-tentations than to manly and open appeals to good sense and patriotic feeling. The cooks have pretty well spoilt the broth.

The superb Mayor's Fête at the Mansion House appeared to cheer us with stronger hopes; and we trust that such a dinner, in such company, will not be allowed to turn out a Mare's nest. But the *Bradford Observer* has published a curious report of a meeting in that important manufacturing place, on the return of its Mayor from his London mission, and as his report lets in more light than any other publication we have seen, we copy from it some of the chief points of new intelligence.—The Mayor spoke of the dinner in terms of well-won eulogy, and then went on to state what he had done to get at something "more practical." He wrote to Mr. Cobden, one of the Commissioners, and thus procured an interview between the Provincial and the London Managers on the day after the feast, at which Lord Granville, Lord Overstone, Sir R. Peel, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Cobden, and "a large number of Mayors" were present. The business was opened by the Bradford Representative, who said—

"He had discovered that there was a certain degree of misapprehension, distrust, and jealousy pervading the minds of certain individuals in reference to the Exhibition, and that it appeared to him highly desirable that such explanations should be given as were calculated to remove these feelings. He referred especially to the suggestion made by Mr. Ripley and adopted by the committee at their last meeting, in reference to the centralizing appearance of the Royal Commissioners and Executive Committee in London, and as to how far it was desirable and practicable that a given number of individuals should be selected from the various manufacturing districts in order to act with the executive committee in London. He also referred to the mode of selection which should be adopted—whether, for instance, in the case of parties producing fabrics for exhibition, the articles should be at once sent to London and the selection made there, or whether they should be previously submitted to a local committee, who should decide what articles should be sent to London. He also referred to the money required for the undertaking—its mode of disbursement—the apprehension entertained by some lest there should be anything approaching to favouritism or jobbing in making the various appointments, or lavish expenditure in connexion with those appointments."

These points were discussed *seriatim*, and principally by Sir R. Peel, who argued from the constitution of the Royal Commission—

"And the interests they were designed to represent, that in the appointment of the Commission the utmost fairness had been adopted, and that no regard had been paid to any political or other considerations, beyond that of selecting the best men for the purpose; and stated that all arrangements of a definite character rested exclusively with the Royal Commissioners, and that the Executive Committee was simply appointed for the purpose of carrying into effect their decisions. It appeared that it was never intended that the local commissioners should sit at the board in London, or act with them: they were merely intended as a committee with whom the Royal Commissioners might confer, when they wished to impart or obtain information. The next question, that of the principle and mode of selection, occupied a considerable time. Among others, the Mayor of

Manchester referred to the difficulties they had had to encounter in Manchester, in attempting to appoint local commissioners, and in consequence of which they had abandoned the idea. With respect to a power being invested in local committees, to appoint juries for selection, he was apprehensive that similar difficulties would arise. Mr. Cobden entirely differed from the Mayor of Manchester. The appointment of local commissioners and juries for selection appeared to him distinct questions. He felt quite confident that in Manchester, Bradford, and other towns, men of sound judgment, prudence, uprightness, and integrity, might be found among the merchants in the various branches of trade, whose decisions would carry with them the fullest satisfaction to every producer. Then, again, the point was discussed with regard to the probability of a large quantity of goods of precisely the same character being sent up to London, (from which of course only a limited selection could be made), and the return of so large a portion occasioning expense and disappointment to these parties. Further, if the decision were made in London, there would be a necessity of having there gentlemen from the localities whence the articles were sent, who were decided judges of these articles. Eventually this conclusion was come to—that if the local committees were not able to select men calculated to impart the fullest confidence to the producers to act as jurors, they were to communicate with the royal commissioners, who would adopt the mode most likely to meet the views and wishes of all parties. On the subject of the expenditure, Lord Overstone stated that in every department the most rigid economy would be exercised consistent with the requirements of the undertaking; and assured all present that from the commencement to the close, there should be no work done or payment made, without the sanction of the finance committee, and he gave the strongest pledge that there should be nothing in any way approaching to a job, or favouritism, or contrary to what was just and upright.* The royal commissioners, although acknowledging the undoubted right of local committees to deal with their own funds, were yet desirous to know what amount would actually reach them. It was therefore their wish that, apart from the simple expenses of printing circulars and advertising, the remainder should be sent to them. The question of affixing the prices to articles exhibited was a difficult one. In the case of manufacturers or other producers exhibiting entirely new articles for which they might afterwards anticipate a large sale, if the wholesale price were attached to these articles, it would impart to the public generally information which would preclude the retail vendor from the sale thereof, inasmuch as the public would know the amount of his profit. It was finally arranged that parties should be at liberty to attach a price to an article, or omit it. Some persons seemed to have laboured under the idea that parties should produce the best of all the finest fabrics or articles that are made. This was a mistake; it was wished that there should be fabrics of all descriptions—coarser fabrics, middle fabrics, and better fabrics, inasmuch as merchants would probably be there from all parts of the world, and the object of the exhibition was to unite every variety of our fabrics, so that these parties might be in a position to see all we could produce."

How to protect new designs from being copied or pirated, it was stated would be guarded against as much as possible, and it appeared that the space which would have to be traversed by parties visiting the exhibition would be *Seven Miles and a-Half*!

Having thrown these pieces of observation and intelligence together, we have only to annex the suggestions and queries of a Correspondent to which we alluded in our Notice to Correspondents in the last two *Gazettes* :—

"Is not the public opinion of the world, AS HERETOFORE, the safest and best means of giving a reputation of excellence in arts and manufactures, &c. ?

* With this vague assurance of the Chairman of the Finance Committee the Mayors were satisfied; but Lord Overstone ought to be aware that the public, inclined to subscribe, are not, and that the statements afloat respecting large salaries and allowances, some of the former much exceeding those of Junior Lords of the Admiralty, are anything but satisfactory. Why, in this instance, should such matters be kept secret, and not be openly avowed, as in all other appointments connected with public business?

"Who are capable of being judges or jurors as to excellence in the multifarious works of arts and manufactures ?

"Will not the decisions of the jurors, right or wrong, give to *individuals* an advantage in sales, that would be, and *should* be, more generally diffused, (especially at this time of great change coming over the home trade, by the first workings of free trade)?"

"Is not the present exposition by the expensive plate-glass windows of the half ruined shopkeepers exposition enough already?"

"Is not protection for anything excellent *already* afforded the inventor sufficiently by patents, &c.?"

"The foreigner can work cheaper than the Englishman; will not, therefore, the Englishman buy the foreign articles, stamped by the HYDE-PARK MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE, and the foreigner decline the dearer articles of English manufacture, so recommended, and the balance of trade be fatally against this country?"

"If I were made chief baker for all London, I could supply a better bread at little more than the wholesale cost of the materials, and make a large fortune for my *one family*; but what would become of the other 10,000 bakers, and how could they pay their rent and taxes, &c.?"

"Would it not require a jury of Admirable Crichtons, or angels from heaven, and half of them to be foreigners, to give a just award of merit?"

"Would not a mistaken award in Hyde Park do a serious injury to those who have obtained already great celebrity, after years of great labour and expense, both of mind and body, and perhaps ruin them in one day?"

"Are not the subscriptions given chiefly by persons to please the Court; or because, like myself, they would like to go to such an exhibition, as I do to the opera, without being responsible for the expenses of the management, or consequences to the country, from knowing little practically of manufacturing or commerce?"

"There are many other questions that might be asked relating to the proposed Industrial Exhibition for 1851; but I should be obliged by any of your correspondents giving me a satisfactory answer to any of the above questions."

A BRITON."

MUSIC.

Her Majesty's Theatre.—On Tuesday, Rossini's *Barbiere di Siviglia* was performed for the first time this season, with Sontag in the part of *Rosina*; Belletti as the *Figaro*; and Lablache as *Dr. Bartolo*. This opera continues to be one of the most satisfactorily performed by the Haymarket troupe; the orchestral music is in the hands of the superior players, consequently the violence and clumsiness that attend most of the other performances are avoided, besides which the vocal performers are of the best. Sontag's *Rosina*, with its *Rode's* air and variations, stands unique as a finished and elegant performance. Belletti's *Figaro* is excellently well sung, and with good humorous expression. Lablache's *Bartolo* is known of old, and happy we are to find it as of old, perfect in music and true to nature in its portrayal of the character. On Thursday, the *chef d'œuvre* of Mozart, *Il Don Giovanni*, was performed. It is evident that the reproduction of this celebrated work has been the subject of considerable care on the part of the management, and that rivalry has produced a good effect. The scenery is almost entirely new, and some of it exceedingly beautiful. The *minuet* in G, and the *zarabanda* in A, were given in the masque scene. When so much effort is made, with all the means possessed, it would be ungrateful to find fault; nevertheless, it is provoking that we cannot record a closer arrival at perfection in the interpretation of this superb opera, because the materials are good, the *artistes*, at least the three most impor-

tant, are of the highest order, and the remainder of the cast have excellent pretensions; while the band contains many of the first instrumentalists of the day, and the chorus is a practised, well-trained troupe. The favourite *morceaux* were beautifully sung by Sontag, Coletti, and Lablache. As to Lablache's performance, it is so good and so well known as to be beyond criticism; he is of vital importance throughout the opera, and contributes powerfully to the success of any piece in which he is concerned. Mlle. Parodi's *Donna Anna* does not impress us. Mme. Giuliani is a very acceptable *Elvira*, and sang the "mi tradi" very effectively. As regards the general effect of the opera, we remarked many crudities and falsities in the treatment of the music that might be got rid of by a severer and more tasteful direction.

Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden.—Grisi, Mario, and Tamburini returned once more, and received a most enthusiastic welcome, on Tuesday:—*Lucrezia* was the Opera, and one well calculated to display the *specialité* of each of these gifted singers. Grisi is as great a marvel as ever; what Pasta was we know not of our own ears, but Giulia Grisi is without a rival for quality of voice, and grand impassioned singing combined. *Lucrezia* is one of her greatest parts, and we never remember hearing it given with such impressive effect even by her; the opening *cavatina*, "come bello," was sung with all the elegance and taste possible. The grand duo with the Duke in the second Act showed all her wonderful power of grand and passionate singing—it was magnificently sung. The beautiful trio, too, with Tamburini and Mario which follows, was also perfectly given, with all the truth of expression and exquisite finish of singing that belong only to such great artists; it was rapturously encored.—Mario was somewhat "out of voice" by his journey from St. Petersburg, and an apology was given for him, after which he omitted his *aria* of the last act; for our part, however, the hoarseness of such a voice is worth the sweetest singing of some.—Grisi and Mario were received with long continued applause and lots of bouquets;—Tamburini also shared a similar honour.—Mlle. de Meric, the *contralto*, was to have sung the part of *Orsini*, but had not arrived from Russia, consequently Mme. D'Oskolski took the part; this lady, not possessing a *contralto* voice, could hardly be expected to fill the place of such singers as we have lately heard in the part; so that her attempts were a failure, and the opera suffered in proportion.—The *Puritani*, announced for Thursday, was supplanted by *Norma*. We are at a loss for terms sufficiently expressive of the delight and enthusiasm created by Grisi's performance, always great, but on this occasion invested with more grandeur than ever. It was, indeed, glorious, sparkling with all those lofty, rich, and polished passages of tragic and vocal art which abound in her impersonation of the *Druid Priestess*. The *Costa Diva* was never more charmingly given. The part of *Pollio* was sung by Sig. Tammerlik, and that of *Oroveso* by Herr Formes, whose powerful organ gave great effect to the concerted pieces.

Philharmonic Society.—The third concert took place on Monday. The attractive pieces were Spohr's fine third *symphony* and the violin *concerto* of Mendelssohn's, played by Mr. Cooper; not, however, that we can forget to speak of the Beethoven *symphony* in B flat, and ever memorable for its beautiful and plaintive slow movement in E flat. The audience showed their appreciation of this by asking for its repetition, which Mr. Costa thought better to decline. Mr. Cooper is fast advancing to the first rank amongst our own particular violinists; his playing of the *concerto* chosen by him was, if not a most masterly, a highly creditable performance, and met with the decided approbation of the audience. The vocal music was but indifferently good, although it formed

a considerable portion of the entertainment; the singers were the Misses Williams, Mr. Benson, and Mr. Frank Bodda.

Music at Paris.—The *Huguenots*, the great, and, according to many eminent critics, the greatest, opera of Meyerbeer, was brought out at the Académie Royale, or (to give the temporary republican name) the Théâtre de la Nation, on Monday last, with Roger and Madame Laborde in the principal characters. Roger sang exceedingly well, but, in some parts, had to strain his voice greatly. Madame Laborde, who we believe is new to the European stage, though very popular in the United States, achieved a veritable triumph. She has a beautiful and powerful voice, is an accomplished musician, and has no lack of *aplomb*. She executed the great air of the second act in a style which excited rapturous applause, and went through all her part with unabated spirit and skill. The choruses and orchestra were admirable, and the secondary parts were excellently filled by Bremond, Levasseur, and Madame Julienne. Altogether, this resumption was a magnificent one in every respect; and, notwithstanding the political and social varieties of the worthy Parisians, excited almost as much interest as a new work. Madame Viardot was to have taken the rôle sustained by Madame Laborde, but, before the opera could be got ready, was obliged to leave for Berlin, to fulfil her engagement to perform in the *Prophète*.

THE DRAMA.

Drury Lane.—A new drama in two acts, but as long as a five act play, was produced on Monday evening. It is written by Mr. Bernard, and did not meet with the degree of success usually attendant upon his productions. It is of a bygone school, and not very well constructed, too crowded with soliloquies, and with a great deal more dialogue than is necessary to carry on the action. As a two act piece of the ordinary length, it would probably have been far more successful, but its story and plot are certainly not strong enough to arrest [the attention of an audience for three hours. The story is that of a merchant who has left his former place of residence in consequence of the misconduct of a brother, and has brought up that brother's daughter, whom at the period of the action of the drama, he is about to marry to her own favoured lover. A scoundrel who is acquainted with the previous history of the merchant makes his appearance, and avails himself of his knowledge of the secret to frighten the lady into discarding her lover and accepting his hand—a sacrifice which is only averted by the presence of her own father, who has arrived at Bremen, the scene of the drama, as a wretched mendicant, and who, after rescuing his child, dies. The acting of the chief parts was respectable, that of the merchant being played by Mr. Vandenhoff, the villain by Mr. Cooper, the heroine by Miss Vandenhoff, and her father by Mr. Anderson with a good deal of effect and rugged feeling. The play was listened to patiently without eliciting any marked enthusiasm, and hisses were mixed with the applause on the fall of the curtain.

Haymarket.—Mr. Stirling Coyne's version of the *Vicar of Wakefield*, for which it will be collected a priority of intention over Mr. Tom Taylor's version was claimed, was acted here on Thursday evening. The cast embraced the whole strength of the company. Webster was the *Vicar*, bringing forward the benevolent features of the character with great tact. Buckstone, (*Moses*) funny as usual, but thinking apparently little of Goldsmith's own version of the character. Mrs. Keeley's (*Mrs. Primrose*) presented perhaps too broadly the comic features of the part, although her burst of pathos on her reconciliation with *Olivia* was very effective. Miss Horton and Mrs. Fitzwilliam were amusing as the London ladies,

and Mr. Stuart emphatic as *Burchell*. Mr. Coyne has treated the subject on totally different principles to Mr. Taylor; he appears rather to have aimed at constructing an effective drama on the story of the tale, than to represent in a dramatic form as much of the book itself as could be put into the space allowed; and if Mr. Taylor's version partakes more of the spirit of the author, Mr. Coyne's drama made the audience laugh heartily, and never once flags in the process of bringing out the main features of the story. The piece is well got up; and those who go for the sake of making comparisons may do so without detriment to either version, and will find distinct characteristics enough in each to prevent any weariness in witnessing the performance of both.

Théâtre Français, St. James's.—The performances recommenced on the 5th, with Scribe's celebrated comedy of *Bertrand et Raton*. English playgoers will recollect a version of this piece which was produced at Drury Lane, under Mr. Bunn's management, with the name of *The Minister and the Mercer*, the principal character, that of *Bertrand*, being played by Mr. W. Farren. Now, the part is performed by M. Samson, the original representative at the *Théâtre Français*, an artist of consummate skill and judgment. The character is one of restrained power, only in one instance allowing of any approach to energy or even earnestness, and then every word is weighed and nothing left to impulse. The point of the part is complete controul over words, look, tone, and action, the expression of deep meaning by the slightest possible inflections of voice, and the utterance of keen sarcasms as if they were either the politest remarks or the tritest of commonplaces. All this was done in the most masterly manner; not a shade of meaning was lost, or a look or tone wasted, while the art was so completely concealed that the practised eye only could detect that art was used at all, and this without any sacrifice of the assumed individuality which quite realized the author's conception; yet there were indications that the coldness was merely assumed, and that if force had been wanting to carry out his view of the character, M. Samson had it at his command. It is scarcely too much to say that M. Samson's performance of this part is the most finished thing of the sort ever witnessed; it stamps him an actor of the highest and most intellectual class. The other members of the company did not appear to any great advantage, but the *troupe* has since been strengthened by the arrival of Mlle. Denain of the *Théâtre Français*, an intelligent and clever actress of the school of high French comedy, who appeared on Monday night in conjunction with M. Samson, in the *Ecole des Veillards*. On Wednesday evening the performances were for the benefit of Mr. Bunn, who presented his patrons with an attractive bill of fare, which included the names of Carlotta Grisi, Mr. and Mrs. Kean, and the principal members of the French company.

Strand.—A one act drama by Mr. Palgrave Simpson, called *Poor Cousin Walter*, followed on Monday evening the attractive version of the *Vicar of Wakefield*. It is one of the neatest pieces both in its construction and composition that has been for some time produced. The story is founded upon the substitution of one cousin for another, the one being poor but the other rich, and the one fancifully and the other truly in love with a wealthy merchant's daughter, who is the depositary of a secret which involves a change of fortune between the two. The situations in which the lady, believing that she is addressing the rich cousin, places the evidence of this in the hands of the poor one is highly dramatic and effective, and was beautifully acted by Mr. Leigh Murray, and Mrs. Stirling, acted with a grace and finish that showed a thorough perception of the author's meaning. The scene is quite new, and represents an old English manor

with elegance and fidelity. The piece was most completely and deservedly successful; a result which was partly brought about by the perfect knowledge of the range of their powers, which both author and actors evinced. This theatre has been newly decorated and looks so clean and cheerful, and its complete though small company is so well made use of, as to render it one of the most agreeable of our places of amusement.

Surrey.—The management here has shown considerable spirit in its endeavours to attract a fair portion of the attention bestowed upon the Easter novelties. A melo-drama of elaborate construction, taken from the French, and called *The Adventurer*, was brought out on Easter Monday, followed by a grand burlesque called *The Three Princesses*; this has been produced with an amount of care and splendour that does great credit to the management, and will well repay the dangers and loss of time required to arrive at so remote a part of the county of Surrey as the end of the Blackfriars-road. The principal parts are played by Miss Bromley as the *Princess Bright-Eye*, and Miss Coveney as *Prince Faithful*, these being the lovers, who, after a due share of dangers from enchanted castles and attendant griffins, are united before the curtain falls. The scenery, which is by Mr. Calcott, is a great addition to the other attractions of the piece.

Marglebone.—This pretty little house has opened for a short season, or rather for a certain number of nights, under the able management of Mr. E. Stirling, with a good working company, Mr. G. V. Brooke and Mrs. Seymour being the "Stars." Shakspeare and the Legitimate Drama, well supported with selections from the Manager's own vast store of original and adapted pieces, are drawing excellent houses.

VARIETIES.

Dublin—Trinity College.—The Lord Primate has lately endowed a chair of Ecclesiastical History in Trinity College, Dublin, and nominated, as the first professor, the Rev. Samuel Butcher, D.D., Fellow of Trinity College. The appointment is for five years.

Dr. William Prout.—The obituary of the week announces the death of this eminent physician, on Tuesday, at his residence in Sackville-street, and no more than sixty-four years of age. Dr. Prout was a Fellow of the Royal Society, and the author of several works on medical and scientific subjects, which acquired him a high reputation both for professional attainments and learning. He was accordingly held in much social esteem, and a wide circle of friends will lament his loss, in what may now be called little beyond the prime of life, in the class of which he was a distinguished member. His eminence as a philosophical writer may be estimated by his being chosen to write one of the Bridge-water Treatises.

Mr. Bowles.—One of our sweetest Poets, an ornament to our literature and times, died at Salisbury on Sunday, aged eighty-nine. His place is high among the bards of our day, and though advanced years have kept him from the public for a considerable period, those who recollect the palmy days of Moore, Scott, Byron, will not fail to associate with them the admired and respected name of Bowles. He was a near neighbour to Lord Lansdowne at Bowood, and of Moore at Slopperton: a delightful abode where we have passed happy days of literary intercourse and pleasures.

Public Libraries and Museums.—Mr. Ewart's bill for establishing these libraries, after some desultory opposition, and a division of 99 to 64, went partly through committee, and 6 o'clock having come, progress was reported, and the rest left for Wednesday next. Some alterations will be made in the measure as originally proposed.

Turner's Landscape.—A very beautiful view of the Trossachs, painted by Turner, is exhibited in Mr. Grundy's gallery and has attracted great admiration. It is certainly one of the finest works of the artist's hand, and nature itself with all the chromatic harmonies of subdued colour. The learning of Poussin never produced anything superior. The management of a gleam of light, the atmospheric effects throughout, and the exquisite melting in gradation of the whole are not to be surpassed. The picture was done for his friend Mr. Thomson, of Duddingston, himself a charming landscape painter some thirty-years ago, and is a masterpiece worthy of the study of every lover of art.

Fine Cabinet Pictures.—Messrs. Christie and Manson announce for sale the choice cabinet collection of the late Mr. James Stuart, and we warn our readers of this sale, being ourselves well acquainted with this little treasury of art. In proof of its excellence, we may mention having about two years ago taken Mr. Seguin to see these productions, and having his testimony to their originality and excellence. Mr. Stuart's Berghem was about his *chef d'œuvre*, but many of the other masters are no less worthy of their famous names.

Christus Remunerator.—A fine picture by A. S. Scheffer, (in progress of engraving, as a companion to the Christ Consoler of the same artist) is on view at Messrs. Colnaghi's, and is well worth inspection. The Saviour seems to us to be rather short, but the groups around are excellently disposed, and the expression in most of the heads is beautiful and touching. The Magdalen in front is admirably done. The tone of colour is low, in accordance and sympathy with the subject, and the whole in harmony with the grateful and pious feeling of the scene.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Aceland's Liturgia Domestica. 4th edition, 18mo, cloth, 2s.
 Alison's (A.) Essays, vol. I., 8vo, cloth, 15s.
 Bennett's (Rev. W. J. E.) Letters, vols. I. and II., post 8vo, cloth, each 7s. 6d.
 Bland's (Rev. P.) Plain Parish Sermons, 12mo, cloth, 5s.
 Bremer's (F.) Eastern Offering, 12mo, cloth, 5s.
 Browning's (R.) Christmas Eve, a poem, 12mo, cloth, 6s.
 Chronological Catechism of the Fathers on Doctrine of Regeneration in Baptism, 8vo, cloth, 5s.
 Clarkson's (Rev. W.) India and the Gospels, 8vo, cloth, 6s.
 Cooper's (J. F.) The Ways of the Hour, 3 vols, post 8vo, £1 11s. 6d.
 Daria's (Rev. S.) Exposition of Church Catechism, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
 Edwards's (Rev. J.) Exposition of Book of Psalms, 8vo, cloth, 10s.
 Fenelon's Letters on Frequent Communion, 18mo, cloth 1s.
 Girdlestone's Old Testament, vol. II., 8vo, cloth, 12s.
 Hancock's (W. N.) Impediments to Prosperity of Ireland, 12mo, 1s.
 Harding's Lessons on Trees, 4to, cloth, 25s.
 Knight's Studies and Illustrations of Shakspeare, vol. I., Biography, cloth, 7s. 6d.
 Lynam's (late Rev. R.) History of Roman Emperors, 2 vols., 8vo, cloth, 32s.
 Maguire's (Rev. J. M.) Letters on Vindication of the Church of England, 12mo, cloth, 6s.
 More Verse, by Corn Law Rhymer, vol. II., 4s.
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 Smith's (D.) Dyer's Instructor, 12mo, cloth, 21s.
 (Rev. J.) Selections of Spiritual Poetry, 18mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.

DENT'S TABLE FOR THE EQUATION OF TIME.
 [This table shows the time which a clock or watch should indicate when the sun is on the meridian.]

1850	h.	m.	s.	1850	h.	m.	s.
April 13	12	0	33.7	April 17	11	59	34.0
14	12	0	18.2	18	11	59	20.0
15	12	0	3.2	19	11	59	6.3
16	11	59	48.4				

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. M.—Meant as a "negatur."
 The paper on the Industrial Exhibition of 1851 in this number takes the place we had thought to allot to some further remarks on the British Museum Report.
The Musical Union.—We are obliged to defer our notice of the second meeting of this Society of Musical Dilettanti till our next.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, Pall Mall.—
 THE GALLERY for the EXHIBITION and SALE of the WORKS of BRITISH ARTISTS is OPEN DAILY, from Ten till Five. Admission 1s. Catalogue 1s.
 GEORGE NICOL, Secretary.

THE NEW SOCIETY of PAINTERS in
 WATER COLOURS will open their Sixteenth Annual Exhibition on Monday, the 22nd inst., at their Gallery, 54, Pall Mall, near St. James's Palace.
 JAMES FAHEY, Secretary.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION for the EXHIBITION of MODERN ART, Portland Gallery, No. 316, Regent street, (Opposite the Polytechnic Institution).
 The Public are informed that the Exhibition of the above Association will OPEN on MONDAY, the 15th inst.
 BELL SMITH, Hon. Sec.

WORKS of ANCIENT and MEDIEVAL ART, AND SPECIMENS of BRITISH MANUFACTURES.
 The above Exhibition is OPEN DAILY from Ten till Dusk, at the House of the Society of Arts, John-street, Adelphi. Admission, to those not Members, or introduced by Members, ONE SHILLING. Catalogue One Shilling.

INDIA OVERLAND MAIL.—GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent Street, Waterloo Place.
 A GIANTIC MOVING PICTURES, ILLUSTRATING THE ROUTE of the OVERLAND MAIL to INDIA, depicting every object worthy of notice on this highly interesting journey from Southampton to Calcutta, accompanied by descriptive detail, and appropriate Music (which has been in preparation for the last nine months), is now OPEN DAILY, at 2 and half-past 7.—Descriptive Catalogue may be obtained at the Gallery.—Admission, 1s; Reserved Seats, 2s. 6d. (which may be previously engaged).

"EXHIBITION of INDUSTRY of ALL NATIONS, 1851."

THE CITY of LONDON COMMITTEE for furthering the Exhibition of Industry of all Nations in May 1851, beg to urge upon the attention of parties residing within the City of London, and intending to be Exhibitors, that the Royal Commissioners are desirous of becoming acquainted with the Names of Exhibitors, the objects proposed to be Exhibited, and the Space required for such objects, before the 10th May, 1850, and the Committee are now prepared to supply Printed Forms of Returns, to be filled up by intending Exhibitors.
 STEPHEN REED CATTLEY, M.A., Hon. Sec.
 DAVID WILLIAMS WIRE, 1 Sec.

Office of the City of London Committee,
 62, Cheapside, April 6, 1850.

TALBTYPE PORTRAITS ON PAPER.

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MESSRS. CHRISTIE and MANSON respectfully give notice that they will SELL by Auction, at their Great Rooms, King-street, St. James's Square, on THURSDAY, April 18, and following day, by order of the Executors, the exceedingly choice Cabinet of Dutch and English PICTURES and objects of Art and Vertu, selected with great taste by the well-known collector, James Stuart, Esq., deceased, late of Boyne Terrace, Notting Hill. Among the pictures will be found:—The Skittle Players, by De Hooghe, very fine; a grand Composition of Figures, by Terburg; an exquisite landscape, by K. du Jardin, from Mr. Zachary's Collection; a capital Landscape by Pyndaker, from Lord Harcourt's collection; the Rich Man and Lazarus, by Teniers; a Conversation, by Jan Steen; a Lady, by Egion Vander Neer, from Haring; a fine work of Canaletti from Marshal Maitland; Portraits by Titian, Rubens, Van Dyck, Cuyper, Hogarth, and Sir Joshua Reynolds; a view on the Thames, by Wilson, from Fonthill; Portrait of the Regent Murray and his wife, by De Heere; a beautiful portrait of the Duchess Brunati, by Greuze; and several fine works of the English School; Drawings, by Sir D. Wilkie, D. Roberts, R.A.; Enamels and Miniatures; also, a very interesting collection of mediæval glass, two beautiful plaques of Sevres mounted as tables, various objects of vertu and decoration, and the library of modern books and books of prints.

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Signori COLETTI, BELLETTI, and LABLACHE,
CALZOLARI, and SIMS REEVES.

Madlles. CARLOTTA GRISI,
MARIE TAGLIONI, and AMALIA FERRARIS.

Will take place

On THURSDAY, APRIL 18th, 1850,
When will be presented MOZART'S Opera,

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO.

Susanna Madame SONTAG.

The Countess Madlle. PARODI.

Cherubino Madlle. CATH. HAYES.

The Count Almaviva Signor COLETTI.

Figaro Signor BELLETTI.

Basilio Signor CALZOLARI.

AND

Bartolo Signor LABLACHE.

In the Wedding Scene, the

ZARABANDA IN A

(Originally composed for this Opera),

WILL BE DANCED BY

Madlle. CARLOTTA GRISI, and Madlle. MARIE

TAGLIONI, who will appear as a Cavalier.

After the Opera will be presented selections from

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LA ESMERALDA;

Comprising the celebrated TRUANDAISE, Madlle.

CARLOTTA GRISI, and M. CHARLES.

To be followed by the last Scene of Donizetti's Opera,

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR,

By Mr. SIMS REEVES.

After which will be revived, the admired "Ice Ballet,"

(by M. P. TAGLIONI,) entitled

LES PLAISIRS DE L'HIVER;

OU, LES PATINEURS.

The Principal Characters by Madlle. CARLOTTA

GRISI, Madlle. MARIE TAGLIONI, and

Madlle. AMALIA FERRARIS;

In the course of which the admired Spanish dance,

"LE ZINGARAS;" Madlle. MARIE TAGLIONI.

"A NEW GRAND PAS;" Madlle. AMALIA

FERRARIS. "GRAND PAS DE DEUX A LA

HONGROISE;" Madlle. CARLOTTA GRISI, and

M. CHARLES.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

The Nobility, Patrons of the Opera, and the Public, are
respectfully informed that on Tuesday, April 16, 1850, will
be presented

MOZART'S Celebrated Opera,

DON GIOVANNI

The Scenery by Mr. CHARLES MARSHALL.

Don Giovanni Signor COLETTI.

Don Ottavio Signor CALZOLARI.

Masetto Signor F. LABLACHE.

Leporello Signor LABLACHE.

Donna Anna Madlle. PARODI.

Donna Elvira Madame GIULIANI.

AND

Zerlina Madame SONTAG.

In the ball scene will be danced by

Madlle. CARLOTTA GRISI and Madlle. MARIE

TAGLIONI,

(Who will appear as a Spanish Cavalier).

Mozart's Incidental Minuet in G, and also Mozart's

CELEBRATED ZARABANDA in A minor.

(As performed with the greatest success at the Royal Opera,

Berlin).

BETWEEN THE ACTS,

A DIVERTISSEMENT,

In which Mlle. AMALIA FERRARIS will appear.

To conclude with the second tableau of the highly suc-

cessful New and Original Grand Ballet, by M. PAUL

TAGLIONI, entitled

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TAGLIONI, M. CHARLES and M. PAUL TAGLIONI,

will appear.

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COVENT GARDEN.

Madame GRISI, Madlle. VERA, Herr FORMES,
Mons. MASSOL, and Signor TAMBERLIK.

ON TUESDAY NEXT, April 16th, 1850, the Per-
formances will commence with BELLINI'S Opera
of N O R M A.

Norma,

Madame G R I S I,

Adalgisa Madlle. VERA,
(Her 2nd Appearance in that character at the Royal
Italian Opera.)

Clotilde, Madlle. COTTI,

Flavio, Signor SOLDI,

Oroveso, Herr FORMES,

(His 2nd appearance in that character in England.)

AND

Pollio, Signor TAMBERLIK.

(His 2nd Appearance in that Character in England.)

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Signor ROMMI, and Masaniello, Signor TAM-

BERLIK.

The Ballet incidental to the Opera will be supported by

Monsieur ALEXANDER and Madlle. LOUISE

TAGLIONI.

The OVERTURES to MASANIELLO will be played

between the Operas.

THE SECOND GRAND EXTRA NIGHT

will take place on

THURSDAY NEXT, APRIL 18th, 1850,

when will be performed (for the First Time this

Season), MOZART'S Celebrated Opera, of

D O N G I O V A N N I.

Donna Anna, Madame GRISI,

Elvira, Madlle. VERA,

Zerlina, Madame CASTELLAN,

Leporello, Herr FORMES,

Don Giovanni, Signor TAMBURINI,

Masetto, Signor POLONINI,

Il Commendatore, Signor TAGLIAFICO,

AND

Don Ottavio, Signor MARIO.

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5,000	8 years	100 0 0	717 10 0	5887 10 0
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